Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Benavente urges House to support federalization delay. PAGE 5

179 people taken to shelters

Typhoon intensifies as it nears

RELATED NEWS

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- Red Cross mobilizes volunteers, provides typhoon kits. **PAGE 3**
- DPH warns pregnant women of premature deliveries. **PAGE 3**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Heavy rains and strong winds brought by Typhoon Choi-Wan 15W forced over 150 Saipan residents to take refuge in designated shelters yesterday and caused government agencies and schools to shut down.

See TYPHOON on Page 4

Power poles, plants and a man are reflected in floodwaters on a Garapan street yesterday afternoon, with the onslaught of heavy rains associated with Typhoon Choi-Wan. At 5pm yesterday, Choi-Wan was drifting west-northwest at 6 miles per hour, packing 85 mph of maximum sustained winds, and was expected to pass just north of Saipan early Tuesday morning. The typhoon cancelled classes in schools, closed government offices and many private agencies, and forced hundreds to seek shelter at emergency centers.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

'Low-income families spending more for shelter and utilities, less for food'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Emko, 21, one of the only two breadwinners in a family of five, feels like she is working not so much to feed her family but to meet her monthly utility and rental payments.

She disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that every payday, less than $150 of her wages is allotted to buy food; the rest of

See LOW-INCOME on Page 4

'Bullet Magnet': Sgt. Camacho has 5 Purple Hearts in 5 years

By STEPHANIE GASKELL
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SHANK, Afghanistan—The soldiers in his New York-based combat unit call Staff Sgt. Brandon Camacho the "Bullet Magnet."

Camacho—either the luckiest or unluckiest soldier in Afghanistan—is on his second tour here with the

See BULLET on Page 4

GASKELL/NEWS

Staff Sgt. Brandon Camacho, 24, of Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands. Camacho, who also served in Iraq, is on his second tour in Afghanistan with the 10th Mountain Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Squadron, 71st Cavalry Regiment.

NMI August arrivals post 9 pct. uptick

August 2009 visitor arrivals to the Northern Mariana Islands posted a 9-percent increase compared to August 2008, a welcome boost to this island resort destination that has been buffeted by the global downturn in travel.

According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota registered 37,206 visitors last month compared to 34,251 in August 2008. The positive turn is credited in part to high travel demand during the summer months.

See NMI on Page 4

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you use a seat belt when driving?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 6

As of September 14, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Yale Crime
Police on Sunday said they found what they believe is the body of a Yale University graduate student.

NATION...Page 14

VMA Awards
Kanye West apologized for yet another outburst at the Video Music Awards, this time at country-pop singer Taylor Swift.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

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Local

'Federal oversight to reduce abuse by foreign investors'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has said that the federal oversight and regulation of CNMI foreign investors should help reduce abuse by foreign investors in the CNMI.

This should also help reduce the opportunity for aliens to use the CNMI as an entry point into the United States, said DHS in its 55-page notice of rulemaking and supplementary information to the investor program regulations. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will publish the rules in the Sept. 14 Federal Register.

CNMI government and private sector officials are now reviewing the supplementary information and are awaiting the proposed regulations.

At the same time, DHS said that, without the E-2 CNMI investor program during a five-year transition period, many of the existing foreign investors in the CNMI "would not meet the minimum financial investment necessary to be eligible for U.S. E-2 status currently."

Of the estimated 500 foreign registered investors in the CNMI, DHS said "many of them will need to spend the transition period making themselves eligible for another status under the INA [Immigration and Nationality Act]."

The transition period is from Nov. 28, 2009 to Dec. 13, 2014.

The investor program proposed in the DHS rule will last until the transition period, at which time the CNMI E-2 investor "must apply and be approved for another immigrant or non-immigrant status under the INA."

Only those who have been admitted as eligible CNMI investors prior to Nov. 28, among other eligibility requirements, are qualified to apply for an E-2 CNMI investor status.

DHS said because oversight of immigration by the CNMI government is thought to be less stringent than that of the U.S. federal government, there is presently the opportunity by individuals seeking entrance to the U.S. to seek admittance to the Commonwealth as an opportunity to gain illegal entrance into the United States.

"By the federal government taking over responsibility for immigration enforcement in CNMI, the opportunity for abuse of the CNMI immigration regime for illegal access to the United States is reduced," said DHS.

The public has until Oct. 14 to submit comments to the proposed investor regulations.

Another set of regulations related to the CNMI-only transitional worker program has yet to be released.

'Ineligible'

DHS said current foreign workers and investors in the CNMI would mostly not be eligible for a status under the INA, or else legislation of a transition period and temporary mitigating regulations as proposed under this rule would be unnecessary.

"Thus, while one stated goal of the CNRA is the economic and business growth of the CNMI, by providing a mitigating transition program, the legislation implies that goal will require at least five years to be achieved. This rule will operate during that time," DHS said.

DHS also said that retiree investor permit holders do not qualify as U.S. E-2 investors in their current status, notwithstanding that they may have access to, or be able to, acquire enough capital to invest and qualify.

DHS also cited a Government Accountability Office report stating that about 18 percent of foreign investors in the CNMI are from countries with which the U.S. does not have a treaty friendship, commerce or navigation.

"Anecdotal evidence indicates that at least a few of the affected investors from countries without treaties of friendship, commerce or navigation with the United States may be eligible for L-1A executive or managerial visas; thus the possibility exists that some of these investors may be able to stay in the CNMI in another status after the end of the transition program, currently December 31, 2014," said DHS.

DHS' proposed rule links investment levels to those required for CNMI status for a long-term business investor at $150,000; a perpetual foreign investor at $100,000, in an aggregate approved investment in excess of $2,000,000, or a minimum of $250,000 in a single investment; and, a retiree investor at $100,000 on Saipan, $75,000 on Tinian or Rota, or $150,000 elsewhere in the CNMI.

To qualify as a U.S E-2 treaty investor with nonimmigrant status, the applicant must invest a substantial amount of capital in a bona fide enterprise in the United States, must be seeking entry solely to develop and direct the enterprise, and must intend to depart the United States when their treaty investor status ends.

The treaty investor must also be a national of a country with which the U.S. has a treaty of friendship, commerce, or navigation and must be entering the U.S. pursuant to treaty provisions.

DHS said there is no accurate way to estimate for what other visa or non-immigrant status the 500 foreign registered investors may qualify.

"However, a review of the CNMI eligibility criteria and anecdotal evidence indicates that many of them would not meet the minimum financial investment necessary to be eligible for U.S. E-2 status currently.

The E-2 CNMI investor status is one of several CNMI-specific provisions contained in the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 or Public Law 110-229, which extends most provisions of federal U.S. immigration law to the CNMI.

The original implementation date of June 1, 2009 was pushed back by 180 days, the maximum allowed by law, to Nov. 28.

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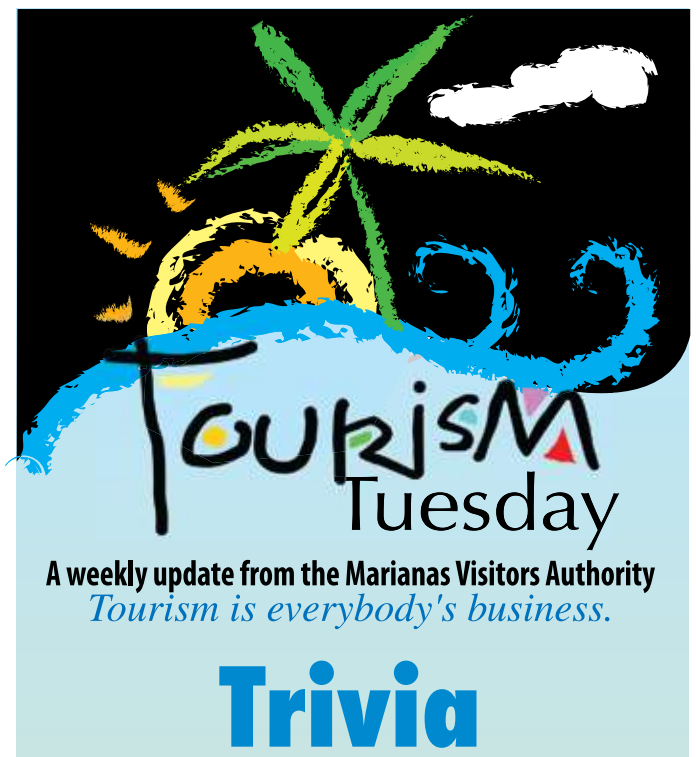

A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority

Tourism is everybody's business.

Trivia

In Fiscal Year 2008, Japanese visitors made up what percentage of total visitors to the Northern Mariana Islands? Select the correct answer.

- **About 25%**
- **About 50%**
- **About 75%**

Need a hint?

Japan is the primary tourism market for the Northern Mariana Islands.

Fill out this original form and drop it off this week to Marianas Visitors Authority, Beach Rd., Oleai. Two lucky winners with the correct answer will have their names printed in next week's Tourism Tuesday. They will also receive a 10th anniversary Saipan-da backpack.

Full name _____

Contact number _____

Welcome visitors this week

from Japan and other markets with a warm "hafa adai" or "tirow"!

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

Red Cross mobilizes volunteers, provides typhoon shelter kits

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter started mobilizing its volunteers as early as Sunday and began providing shelter kits to emergency evacuation centers yesterday as winds and rain brought by Typhoon Choi-Wan began battering Saipan.

John Hirsh, executive director of the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter, said the "call down" included volunteers from Saipan and Rota who would be ready to assist should the need arises.

"We're mobilizing volunteers and calling all workers of response teams to get ready… We're hoping that by Tuesday, there won't be enough damage," Hirsh said in a phone interview.

The shelter kits and first aid kits include those needed by shelter managers and other personnel assisting evacuees at designated typhoon shelters, mostly schools. Hundreds of residents started seeking shelter at emergency centers yesterday morning, while most sought refuge in the afternoon and early evening.

Besides providing assistance to shelters, Red Cross will also be involved in disaster assessment.

As part of the response action center team, Red Cross attended the coordination and preparation meetings, including those at 4am, 8am, 2pm, and 7pm yesterday. Other team members include the Office of the Governor's Emergency Management Office, the Department of Public Safety and Public School System.

"We've also been in close contact with Red Cross on Guam and other areas should we need further assistance," Hirsh said.

At 5pm yesterday, Choi-Wan was packing maximum sustained winds of 85 miles per hour and continued to intensify as it moved west-northwest at 6 mph. Choi-Wan was expected to pass just north of Saipan early Tuesday morning.

"Choi-Wan," Chinese for "colorful cloud," is the first typhoon to directly hit the CNMI this year.

Classes on Saipan, Tinian remain suspended today

Evacuees start arriving at schools

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

All classes in public schools on Saipan and Tinian will remain suspended today as a result of the typhoon warning declared by the government since Sunday.

Peter Le'au, the Public School System's Associate Commissioner for Administrative Services, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday they decided to cancel classes today because schools may not ready to open due to the presence of evacuees.

He said affected schools may resume classes Wednesday as soon as the facilities are cleaned and cleared of evacuees.

About 10,700 students were barred from going to school on Monday.

Because Rota has been declared typhoon-free for now, classes there have been ongoing since Monday, Le'au said.

The official, who was among the few PSS personnel present at the central office yesterday, said that as early as 1pm yesterday, some schools were reporting that a few families have already evacuated to their sites.

A check with Tanapag Elementary School showed that six families were already occupying some classrooms as early as 10:30am yesterday. Tanapag was the first school to accommodate the initial evacuees yesterday.

In Dandan Elementary School, an officer in charge of the evacuation said that some families have already called and were expected to come in last night. DES designated its cafeteria as the evacuation center.

Other public schools that have typhoon shutters and were ready for evacuation included Marianas High School and the Garapan, Koblerville, Dandan, and Tanapag elementary school.

Le'au said school buses also began picking up evacuees, according to a preliminary report to PSS.

"After the typhoon, our schools need to be cleaned…so hopefully, we can open classes on Wednesday," Le'au said.

NMC also shuts down

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Carmen Fernandez also announced a cancellation of yesterday's classes due to the island's typhoon condition.

She advised students, faculty, and staff to take precautionary measures to minimize the impact of the typhoon and advised that schedule of classes and further announcements will be provided to the public through radio and on its Web site.

NMC has nearly a thousand students this semester.

Because of the suspension of classes, the election for the next president of the Associated Students of NMC was also postponed, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

There are six candidates vying for this year's ASNMC top post, which was left vacant by former leader Ivan Mereb.

The election is expected to go ahead once regular classes resume on campus.

DPH warns pregnant women of premature deliveries

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Pregnant women were advised by the Department of Public Health yesterday that they may experience labor pains and premature deliveries with the onset of Typhoon Choi-Wan.

In an advisory issued yesterday, the agency urged pregnant women who are due for delivery between now and Oct. 14 to stay at the hospital during the typhoon to ensure that they are taken cared of.

Occasionally, typhoons and tropical storms are associated with the onset of labor pains and premature deliveries, according to health officials.

DPH encouraged all women with a gestational age of 36 weeks and above to self-monitor and prepare for the possibility of early labor.

Those who are experiencing early labor are encouraged to go to the Commonwealth Health Center prior to the arrival of the storm.

DPH designated an area for these pregnant women who are nearing due date and asked them to bring a pillow and bedroll for sleeping.

During typhoons, pregnant women are also on top of the list among those who must first receive the vaccines for both seasonal and H1N1 virus.

In a separate update issued by DPH, it recommended that vaccination efforts for H1N1 virus focus on key population that includes those who are at higher risk of diseases or complications, including pregnant women and infants.

DPH said at this time, it has no information from the Cen-

See DPH on Next Page

Friday is last day to register to vote

The last day for voter registration for the 2009 CNMI general election is this Friday, Sept. 18, 2009.

Those who are qualified to vote and haven't registered yet may register with the Commonwealth Election Commission on or before Sept. 18 during government workdays from 7:30am to 4:30pm. The CEC office is located at 1313 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

You are qualified to vote if you:

1) will be 18 years of age or older on Election Day, which is Nov. 7, 2009;

2) have resided in the CNMI for 120 days prior to election day;

3) are not serving a sentence for a felony conviction;

4) have not been judicially declared insane; and

5) are either a citizen or national of the United States, as defined in the CNMI Constitution.

If you are a previously registered voter who failed to vote in the 2007 general election, you must re-register to be eligible to vote in the 2009 regular general election.

If you will be out of the CNMI on Election Day, Nov. 7, 2009, you will need to request an absentee ballot as soon as possible but not later than Oct. 28, 2009, if you are applying by mail or electronic means.

Applications for absentee ballots can also be downloaded at www.votecnmi.gov.mp, filled out, and then faxed to the CEC at 664-8689. If you are applying for an absentee ballot in person, you must do so not later than Nov. 6, 2009.

For more information about voter registration or absentee ballot requirements, call 664-VOTE (664-8683), email cec@pticom.com, or visit the Commonwealth Election Commission website at www.votecnmi.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES

Call for Nominations
2009 Governor's Humanities Awards

The Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities is accepting nominations for the 2009 Governor's Humanities Awards. Individuals, groups and organizations may be nominated for significant contributions to the humanities in five categories:

- **Research and Publication in the Humanities**
- **Preservation of CNMI History**
- **Preservation of Traditional Cultural Practices**
- **Outstanding Humanities Teacher**
- **Lifetime Achievement in the Humanities**

Nomination forms and guidelines may be obtained at the Humanities Council's office in the Springs Plaza Building in Gualo Rai or downloaded from the Council's website at www.nmihumanities.org.

Nomination forms must be received by the Humanities Council on or before **4:30 p.m. on 9 October 2009**. Awardees will be selected by a majority vote of the Council's board of directors.

Awards will be presented during the 2009 Governor's Humanities Awards ceremonies in October 2009. The time, date and venue of this event will be announced shortly. Please contact Council staff at 235-4785 for additional information about the 2009 Governor's Humanities Awards.

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust has scheduled a Board of Trustees Regular Meeting to be held on Friday, September 18, 2009 beginning at 9:00 AM at the MPLT Conference Room, Suite # 107, Morgen Building; Saipan, MP.

The following agenda is hereby established:

I PRELIMINARIES
- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of Minutes

II CONSULTANT'S REPORTS
- Legal Counsel Reports
  - Home Loan Program: Auction Review & Approval
- Investment Consultant Reports
- Loan Administrator Reports
- Board Consultant Reports
  - Financial Statements - JULY 2009

III OLD BUSINESS
- GF Distribution Issues
- Office Space Matters - Building Construction
- Administrative Manual - Personnel Benefits

IV NEW BUSINESS
- Request for Proposal (ETI) Review & Approval
- Asset Allocation Criteria Review & Approval
- 5th Micronesia Real Estate Conference

V EXECUTIVE SESSION
At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

VI MISCELLANEOUS

VII ADJOURNMENT

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may beadded to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority ofthe trustee governing body. All interested persons are welcome to attendand to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Phillip Mendiola-Long, AIF
Chairman, Board of Trustees

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort job fair postponed

Due to the typhoon, the Kagman Komunidat Association would like to announce that the Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort job fair will be postponed until further notice.

Notice to all candidates for political office

The Office of the Public Auditor will be conducting presentations on campaign finance and reporting on the islands of Rota, Saipan, and Tinian. The dates and times for each of the presentations are as follows:

■ Tinian: Saturday, Sept. 19, 2009, 1pm to 3pm, Northern Marianas College-Tinian Instructional Site, Room D

■ Rota: Friday, Sept. 25, 2009, 5:30pm to 7:30pm, Northern Marianas College-Rota Instructional Site, Building B - Room B2

■ Saipan: Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2009, 5:30pm to 7:30pm, Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe.

Given the statutory restrictions relating to campaign spending and reporting, all candidates and their treasurers are strongly urged to attend. For more information, call OPA at 322-6481/2. ***(OPA)***

BULLET

From Page 1

Fort Drum-based 10th Mountain Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team.

The reason for the nickname: He's just earned his fifth Purple Heart after being shot in the left knee in a firefight 100 miles south of Kabul, military officials said.

"One of my friends said, 'You're the luckiest unlucky person I know,'" said Camacho, 24, who grew up in Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands. "I don't know what to make of it."

Purple Hearts are awarded to soldiers wounded or killed in combat. It is the oldest of U.S. military decorations and was established by Gen. George Washington with an order from his upstate Newburgh headquarters on Aug. 7, 1782.

Washington wrote: "Let it be known that he who wears the military order of the Purple Heart has given of his blood in the defense of his homeland and shall forever be revered by his fellow countrymen."

So, by Gen. Washington's standards, Camacho has earned reverence five times over.

Military officials could not immediately confirm if Camacho's five Purple Hearts were the most awarded to an individual since 9/11 for service in Afghanistan and Iraq, but they were in awe of his achievement.

If anybody else has five, "it would be an extreme rarity," a Pentagon spokesman said. Several soldiers and Marines earned eight Purple Hearts for service in World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

Camacho's first Purple Heart came in 2004, after he was hit by shrapnel in the left knee when a mortar round hit his outpost in Iraq.

His second was earned two years later in Afghanistan. A bullet grazed his left knuckles as he peeked around a corner during a firefight. A few months later, he was hit in the left shoulder by a tracer round.

Camacho returned to Afghanistan in December. In May, he was again shot in the left shoulder, just inches from the last shot, during a close-range firefight in a wheat field.

"I lost a lot of blood," he said. "It missed my bone by a half inch."

On Sept. 8, Camacho was out on a recovery mission after two Apaches took out several insurgents who had attacked a local government center.

"We heard voices and I took a peek around the corner and a guy popped out about 5 feet in front of me," he said.

A round ricocheted and hit him in the left knee, not far from his earlier shrapnel wound.

"I don't know why it's always my left side," he said, laughing.

Retired Army Col. Robert Killebrew, who served in Vietnam, said Camacho's dedication was emblematic of the valor and resilience of the new generation of soldiers and Marines.

"I'm amazed and humbled by how good these soldiers are," said Killebrew, a senior fellow at the Center for a New American Security. "Their equipment is wearing out, they're tired, but their resolve and courage just get stronger."

As for the Bullet Magnet, he's heading home, on crutches.

Amazingly, he hopes to come back to his unit before their deployment is over at the end of the year. "I absolutely do not want to go home," he said. "I want to stay and finish it up."

Editor's Note: This story was originally published in the New York Daily News *on Sunday, Sept. 13, 2009. Reprinted with permission.*

DPH

From Page 3

ters for Disease Control and Prevention regarding the number of 2009 H1N1 vaccines that will be available to the CNMI.

"Until such time more information becomes available, DPH will focus 2009 H1N1 vaccine awareness and outreach efforts targeting pregnant women who are the number one priority to receive the vaccine due to their high risk of disease and complications from the flu," health bulletin stated.

DPH said CNMI is still in pandemic alert 6 as declared by World Health Organization and CDC.

There are currently no hospitalizations at the CHC due to the new H1N1 flu and there are no reported deaths to date.

NMI

From Page 1

Overall, fiscal year total arrivals to date are 6.69 percent fewer visitors than the same period in 2008.

The primary market of Japan, which makes up 55 percent of arrivals so far this year, posted an 11 percent increase in August to 19,537 visitors. The upswing is a turnaround from four months of double digit declines largely due to the H1N1 influenza outbreak which severely limited outbound travel from Japan, and the impact of the global economic crisis which has impacted Japanese spending on leisure travel. August airlift from Japan to the Northern Marianas was also augmented by double daily charter flights from Narita.

Arrivals from the NMI's second largest market of Korea were virtually unchanged from August 2008, posting 10,600 visitors in August 2009, a decrease of only 1 percent. Korean visitors comprise 26 percent of arrivals so far this fiscal year.

"The 11 percent increase in Japan arrivals is welcome and is largely responsible for the NMI registering more overall visitors in August 2009 than the previous year," said MVA Managing Director Perry Tenorio. "In addition, we are pleased to be pulling even to last year in Korea after a decline in visitor numbers for most of this year until now. We hope to see continued travel recovery from Korea as the country's economy also recovers."

The Korean economy has recently shown a rapid recovery in domestic demand and exports, and is now formally on the road to recovery from the deep recession caused by the global financial crisis.

Bolstered by reinstated direct charter flights from Shanghai and Guangzhou, arrivals from mainland China jumped 80 percent over August 2008 arrivals to 3,892. The secondary market of Russia dropped 9 percent to 573 arrivals, as the ruble lost value against the U.S. dollar compared to August 2008. Arrivals from Guam increased 7 percent to 1,622 visitors

"While August was a good month for the Northern Marianas, we are bracing for the September through mid-December low season, commonly known in the travel industry as 'Death Valley,'" cautioned Tenorio. "While our airline partners will be cutting some flights due to low demand, we are working with them to keep established routes to the NMI open and operating so that we will be in position to restore flights when travel picks up again in December for the holiday season."

Losses were seen in August from the United States (-49 percent to 621 visitors), the Philippines (-21 percent to 99 visitors), and Other Areas (-27 percent to 208 visitors). ***(MVA)***

LOW-INCOME

From Page 1

her earnings go to pay for utilities and housing.

Emko, who has been working in the private sector for a year now, and her brother are the only ones in their family with jobs. Although they live in the government-run MIHA housing in Garapan, they need to allot $105 for monthly rental and $67 per month for telephone service. The biggest chunk goes to utilities, which cost up to $250 a month.

"Every time we talk about our income, there's only one obvious thing: we're paying more for these other items than the food we must prioritize," she told *Saipan Tribune*, expressing frustration with the current state of the island's economy.

Lee, a 27-year-old U.S. citizen, said his family is also experiencing the same difficulties, paying more for electricity and housing than for grocery items that their children need.

Lee is living with six other family members in Chinatown and pays $300 monthly for rent. Every two weeks, only $200 is budgeted for everybody's food and supplies while the rest of his earnings go to utilities, $450, and telephone bills, $50.

Because of this, the family's other extra expenses have been stopped, just so they would survive until the next payday.

"Believe it or not, it seems we're working now for the rent and utilities…and not for the food on the table," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Both Emko and Lee believe that something must be done to help people "recover" from the depressing situation.

A government survey done in January 2009 by state agencies that administer the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program show that low-income families are struggling to pay their bills. Many are falling behind while juggling the costs of rent, food, utilities, child care, transportation to work, health care and other essentials.

Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin Faisao said these people are often behind on rental payments and housing loans and others.

"A large jump in one expense category can be catastrophic. Some costs are unavoidable. Rent has to be paid or the family will be evicted. Child care and car bills have to be paid or jobs will be lost. Two costs that can be squeezed more are food and utilities. But the consequences of doing so can be horrendous as utility costs compete directly with food for families' scarce and fixed dollar [incomes]," said Faisao.

He disclosed that the government survey projects applications for utility assistance will likely reach record levels in 2009, increasing by at least 21 percent over last year's levels.

"Forty-seven percent of low-income families reported that they have had to choose between paying for food and utilities in the past year," Faisao said.

The DCCA official said both poor and non-poor families rely heavily on power when the school year begins, but increases in utility costs hurt poor families harder.

"Poor families tend to spend a larger share of income on shelter cost and less on food to compensate, and eat less as a result, while better-off families, even while paying rising fuel bills, can still manage to spend more on food," Faisao said.

The little that poor families have left to spend on food after paying for their utility billings does not go very far, he added. This has gotten worse due to recent inflation in food prices.

Saipan Tribune learned that food prices rose 7.5 percent between October 2007 and October 2008, over the same time period the cost of the Thrifty Food Plan rose 9.4 percent

To mitigate these impacts, Faisao is urging the Legislature to convey to U.S. Congress the inclusion of the CNMI in the Hawaii and Alaska Thrifty Food Plan.

Faisao told local lawmakers that since the temporary assistance for needy families program did not have statutory inclusion or extension to the CNMI, it is best for the Commonwealth to be included in the Thrifty Food Plan for Hawaii and Alaska. He asked that a resolution to this effect be adopted by the House lawmakers to address the depressing situation of poor families in the community.

Faisao also asked for an increased $15 million funding for the CNMI Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for the next fiscal year.

TYPHOON

From Page 1

Choi-Wan was packing maximum sustained winds of 90 miles per hour as of 8:15pm last night, continuing to intensify east-northeast of Saipan and Tinian.

Choi-Wan has been drifting west-northwest at 3 mph and was expected to pass just north of Saipan early this morning, according to the National Weather Service in Guam.

A total of 179 people have already been taken to typhoon shelters on Saipan as of 4pm yesterday, according to Emergency Management Office deputy director Mark Pangelinan.

At 7pm last night, Choi-Wan 15W was about 135 miles east-northeast of Saipan, 145 miles east-northeast Tinian, 205 miles northeast of Rota, 235 miles south-southeast of Agrihan and 170 miles southeast of Alamagan.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial maintained Typhoon Condition 1 for Saipan, Tinian, Agrihan, and Alamagan.

The tropical storm warning and typhoon watch also remained in effect for Saipan, Tinian, and Agrihan.

A tropical storm warning in conjunction with a typhoon watch means tropical storm-force winds are expected and that typhoon-force winds of 74 mph or more are possible within 12 to 24 hours.

Choi-Wan's winds extend outward up to 30 miles from the center, while the tropical storm force winds extend outward up to 180 miles from the center in the east semi-circle and 100 miles from the center in the west semi-circle.

EMO's Pangelinan said there were no report of typhoon-related injuries on Saipan and Tinian as of late afternoon yesterday.

Pangelinan said a total of 179 individuals have taken shelter at designated sites: six at Tanapag Elementary School; 42 people, including one in a wheelchair, at Garapan Elementary School; 82 at Koblerville Elementary School; and 49 at Dandan Elementary School.

Pangelinan said no one has been taken to the Marianas High School, Kagman Elementary School, and Tinian Elementary School.

Classes at all public schools on Saipan and Tinian were cancelled. Some private schools were open in the morning but their administrators sent their students home later in the day.

Government agencies were also closed. The Superior Court and the Supreme Court were open until 11:30am. Some private offices and establishments were closed.

The U.S. District Court for the NMI was open in the morning and closed in the afternoon.

Yesterday morning was cloudy. At 1pm, many people were seen boarding up their houses, apartments, and business establishments. Rain began pouring at 2pm.

Some political parties were seen removing large billboards along the main roads. Operators of small boats secured their vessels at Smiling Cove Marina.

EMO advised people to fill up their cars with gas, and purchase items for typhoon/disaster preparedness, batteries, non-perishable food, and water.

Benavente urges House to support federalization delay

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House Federal and Foreign Relations Committee chair Rep. Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) is urging his colleagues to support Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's (D-MP) request for a one-year delay in the implementation of federalization in the CNMI.

Public Law 110-229, or the federalization law, is set to take into effect Nov. 28.

"Although I believe that the federalization of immigration, if implemented appropriately, will have beneficial effects on our Commonwealth in the long term, I do not believe that implementation on Nov. 28 is in our common best interest," Benavente said in a Sept. 11 "dear colleague" letter.

Benavente said the 12-month delay should allow federal agencies to get sufficiently prepared, to allocate funding, to publish regulations, and to preserve the Russian and Chinese tourism markets while alternatives more favorable to the CNMI are explored.

"Time is running out. We are less than 80 days from the current deadline. We must not allow our community to fall victim to the disruption that is likely to take place if the Act is implemented without adequate preparation. Please join me in supporting a further 12-month delay of P.L. 110-229," Benavente told his colleagues.

He cited four reasons for supporting a delay in federalization.

These include the non-readiness not only of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security which is the lead agency, but also the State Department, the U.S. Department of the Interior, the U.S. Department of Labor, and the U.S. Attorney General's Office.

Benavente

Benavente said with the exception of the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program published by DHS, no regulations have been published implementing the Consolidated Natural Resources Act.

On Friday in Washington, D.C. (Saturday Saipan time), DHS announced that the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will publish a proposed investor program rule for the CNMI in the Sept. 14, 2009 Federal Register (today, Saipan time).

DHS, however, has yet to announce the publication of the proposed CNMI-only transitional worker program, less than three months before federalization.

In his three-page letter, Benavente said the absence of regulations creates "great uncertainty" because businesses, workers and families cannot prepare for the coming major changes.

No funding

Benavente said DHS has reported to the U.S. Congress that it will need $86 million to implement the responsibilities and programs mandated by the CNRA.

This does not include responsibilities allocated to other federal agencies, including the State Department, Labor, and the Interior.

"I am told that neither the 2010 budget, nor the supplemental budget currently pending in committee, has any funding for the implementation of CNRA. How are the relevant governmental agencies to accomplish their assigned tasks? What level of funding and resources will managers of federal agencies divert to an unfunded mandate?" he asked.

Benavente, a former lieutenant governor, said the visa waiver program excludes Russian and Chinese tourists, which represent 11 percent of the CNMI's annual tourist arrivals and 18 percent of its annual tourist expenditures.

"A continued delay of implementation would do two things: first, it would allow the Commonwealth to enjoy the continued economic benefits of Russian and Chinese tourism; second, it would allow the development of procedures that would satisfy the security concerns of the federal government," he said.

Last week, Benavente met with members of the committee and their counterpart in the Senate. One of the ideas considered is the filing of a joint resolution supporting the delay.

JCI's newest president is here for his first visit to the Pacific

MONETH DEPOSA

Junior Chamber International president Jun Sup Shin, right, during yesterday's press briefing at Hyatt Regency.

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

In his maiden visit to the Pacific, Junior Chamber International president Jun Sup Shin said yesterday it is his vision to encourage all local chapter organizations in the world to become active members so they can be provided more opportunities to become better members of their communities.

As president of the nonprofit organization that has more than 200,000 members in over 115 countries, Jun said he plans to visit more than 70 countries this year, marking Saipan as his 56th trip in the first eight months of the year.

His two priority concerns for the group this year is to "prevent" climate change and provide assistance to malaria-afflicted children in Africa.

"JCI is very much like a small United Nation for young active citizens. Our projects are very much aligned with the group's millennium development goals," he told the media in a news briefing at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

JCI is a worldwide network of nearly a quarter of a million members—young leaders in their 20s to 40s—in over one hundred countries and territories. It aims to provide development opportunities and empower young people to create positive change.

In the Pacific, the organization is comprised of JCI Saipan and JCI Marianas Flame Tree.

In the last 18 years, the Saipan chapter has been bringing hundreds of students from Saipan to Korea to participate in an annual educational tour.

This, Jun said, is besides the ongoing community outreach programs initiated by members on island.

"We're here to encourage more members…and become active," he said.

This November, over 10,000 people are expected to attend the annual JCI conference in Indonesia, which has the theme "Global impact through local action."

Jun was elected JCI president at the 63rd JCI World Congress held in New Delhi, India, in November 2008. He will preside over the JCI World Congress in Hammamet, Tunisia, on Nov. 16-21, 2009.

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Students clean up Garapan skate park of graffiti

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Students from various schools led by members of the Island Skaters Association (I-SK8) clean up the Garapan Skate Park of graffiti last Saturday.

The Island Skate Association teamed up with Beautify CNMI volunteers, Rotary Club of Saipan members and students from various schools on Saipan to clean up the graffiti-riddled Garapan Skate Park last Saturday.

Johanna Arellano, president of the Island Skate Association or I-SK8, said this could be the handiwork of people who don't want to play the sport.

"They're anti-skaters," she said.

It was the second time the group cleared the area of graffiti and organizers say the graffiti messages are becoming worse, with lots of profanities.

"It's very inappropriate for the kids. Our observations show that after a month, they come back and do it again," Arellano said.

This time, the cleanup crew just removed or painted over the negative or inappropriate images and left the benign ones intact. The group decided to follow this system every three months.

"We don't want to close the skate park to anybody. We can only stop them [vandals] if we see them doing it. That's the best way we can do right now," Arellano said.

The skate park was a project of the Rotary Club of Saipan.

Dennis Sasamoto, who chaired the Rotary's project committee that built the park, said they are planning to ask the Department of Public Safety to help them secure the area and make the area a graffiti-free zone.

Laurie Peterka of Beautify CNMI thanked those who donated materials they used for the cleanup.

The Northern Marianas Consultants donated the use of a water blaster, the Marianas Insurance Association donated cash to buy biodegradable and non-flammable graffiti remover, while Jeff Elliott of SEAFIX donated a pressurized water pump.

Students who joined the cleanup came from Saipan International School, Ladera International School of Saipan, Saipan Southern High School, Whispering Palms and Marianas High School.

Arellano said she is sure that their members are not the ones painting the graffiti. She said they always remind their members during their regular biweekly meeting not to vandalize the skate park. I-SK8 has over 30 members.

Michael Park, president of the Humanitarian Club of Ladera, said they have been helping keep the CNMI clean and helping the skaters group is just one of their activities.

"We also help children who are in need of school supplies, those who do not have enough money," Park said.

The group recently donated some school supplies to students at Garapan and Koblerville elementary schools. The supplies were donated by individuals from Guam, U.S. mainland and Saipan.

Members of the Humanitarian Club from the University of Guam were on Saipan on Saturday to turn over school supplies to the group.

Naraja resets trial of ex-Rotary president Calvo

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja reset yesterday's scheduled trial of former Saipan Rotary Club president Patrick Mendiola Calvo to Wednesday.

Due to Typhoon Choi-Wan, Naraja reset the jury selection to Wednesday and Thursday in the trial of Calvo, who is facing charges of sexually abusing a minor girl.

Naraja informed all prospective jurors for panels "LS" that the jury selections scheduled for yesterday at 1pm is continued to Wednesday at 1pm.

As for all prospective jurors for panels "LS" that were summoned for today, Tuesday, the judge continued it to Thursday at 1pm.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Calvo with sexual assault in the second degree, sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, sexual abuse of a minor in the third degree, and disturbing the peace. The defendant pleaded not guilty.

Police said Calvo allegedly sexually assaulted a then 13-year-old girl on June 11, 2008.

Last July, Naraja granted the government's motion to allow the mother and sister of the alleged victim to introduce fresh evidence.

In granting the government's motion, Naraja ruled that the prosecution may present evidence through both the victim's sister and mother by testimony that the girl made a complaint and the circumstances surrounding the making of the complaint.

Assistant Attorney General Brian Gallagher is prosecuting the case.

Veteran defense attorney G. Anthony Long is counsel for Calvo.

All local court hearings, filings, posting of fees are postponed

Due to the threat of Typhoon Choi-Wan, Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja reset all scheduled filings, posting of fees, and hearings on Saipan and Tinian yesterday.

In a notice, Naraja ordered that all required filings and posting of fees and or fines due yesterday shall be filed and posted no later than the close of business on the next business day after the courthouses resume operations.

All matters scheduled for hearing yesterday, and all subsequent dates that coincide with the Typhoon Choi-Wan-related closures were also continued to a later date.

Naraja said the assigned judges will determine the next dates.

The operations at the Supreme Court and the Superior Court were normal yesterday beginning at 7:30am but Chief Justice Miguel Demapan shut down the Judicial Complex in Susupe at 11:30am because of the typhoon.

The Court Marshals posted a notice outside the courts' building advising the public that normal business operation will resume today, Tuesday. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

MVA, Asiana Airlines host golf FAM tour

MVA

Korean travel agents at Laolao Bay Golf Resort in Saipan during their recent familiarization tour sponsored by Asiana Airlines and Marianas Visitors Authority. The agents will use their experiences during the Sept. 3-6, 2009, tour to help develop golf packages to help sell the destination.

Year-round golf opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands came to the fore during the recently concluded familiarization tour co-hosted by Marianas Visitors Authority and Asiana Airlines.

The purpose of the tour held on Sept. 3-6, 2009, was to familiarize golf specialist travel agents with the destination to help them package custom golf travel products and to boost the sales of existing CNMI golf products.

During their four-day stay on Saipan, the 17-member group played golf at LaoLao Bay Golf Resort and the Kingfisher Golf Links to get first-hand experience at the courses. They met with island tourism businesses to share ideas for new golf products and to develop partnerships. They also inspected the Fiesta Resort and Spa, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, and Saipan World Resort.

MVA is currently promoting the "Marianas Golf Incentive Program" in Korea.

"Our 'Marianas Golf Volume Incentive Program' aims to encourage the sales of golf products," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "Travel agents who bring a group of more than 20 [persons] are eligible for special incentives. Larger benefits—such as support with the ground transportation and meal costs—are offered to those who host a golf tournament with more than 80 [persons]. Of course, smaller groups are also welcomed."

Kwang Joong Kim of Asiana Airlines' Golf Task Force Team, who initiated the familiarization tour with MVA, said: "We hosted this FAM tour to attract a larger number of golfers to the CNMI as the overseas golf trip demand in Korea is ever increasing. We are planning to break the tradition of large group travels for golf and launch a new product called 'Picnic Golf' where the golfers can travel in a small group—as small as two [persons]—and enjoy a golfing trip to the CNMI."

The golf courses in the CNMI boast of world-class facilities and offer beautiful scenery with an ocean view at reasonable prices.

The familiarization tour was supported by the four hotels and two golf courses visited, DFS Galleria, the Korean Tour Association of Saipan, and Asiana Airlines. ***(MVA)***

US bill could derail Guam hiring plans

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—Plans to hire 20,000 overseas Filipino workers for the construction of the U.S. military headquarters in Guam next year may be derailed by proposed amendments to the National Defense Authorization bill.

Guam's senate is looking to hire Filipino workers to meet its manpower requirements for the relocation of U.S. military facilities from Okinawa to Guam in the next five years.

However, an amendment to the authorization bill in the U.S. House of Representatives provides for a cap of 30 percent on the number of foreign workers allowed to work on federal projects.

But because the Senate version of the bill doesn't have the provision, members of the House and Senators will soon combine to determine if the amendment remains.

James Martinez of the Guam Contractors Association says they are pushing for the 30 percent cap to be omitted.

"It's one thing that we're concerned about because our economy can't handle that…there's no guarantee that there's going to be an available workforce coming in from the U.S. to do this job," Martinez said.

MINA receives $100,000 marine debris grant

NMC

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS

Students of the Northern Marianas College fill out applications for available scholarships at the NMC Financial Aid Office. These scholarships include the Dr. Tan Siu Lin Foundation Scholarship, which is open to both full- and part-time students at NMC, and the College Access Challenge Project Scholarship, which is open to high school juniors, seniors, and first-year college students. The deadline for the Dr. Tan Siu Lin Foundation Scholarship is Sept. 30, and the deadline for the CACP Scholarship is Sept. 15. For more information, log on to www.nmcnet.edu.

The Mariana Islands Nature Alliance aims to cut the amount of Saipan's marine debris and promote recycling through a project newly funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Marine Debris Program.

A local nonprofit, MINA received a $100,000 competitive grant from NOAA to fund its project titled, "Establish an Island Culture of Recycling to Reduce Marine Debris in Saipan's Waters."

Through the grant, industrialized recycling bins will be purchased and placed in seven high-traffic beach sites.

The project's objectives are to:

1) prevent harm to living marine resources by reducing the amount of land-based marine debris entering Saipan's waters;

2) restore natural scenic views to revive the CNMI as an ecotourism destination; and

3) extend the life of Saipan's Landfill through increased recycling.

MINA will accomplish these objectives by conducting an 18-month marine debris education and outreach campaign to increase public awareness of debris impact by 25 percent and to establish an island culture of recycling, through the promotion of proper waste separation and disposal, thereby reducing the amount of land-based sources of marine debris by 70 percent. These strategies will remove both real and perceived barriers to proper waste disposal, resulting in a decrease of beach litter and marine debris.

CONTACT INFO

Mariana Islands Nature Alliance
Tel: (670) 233-7333
E-mail: mina@minapacific.org
Web: http://minapacific.org

MINA will also partner with businesses to promote a community "Adopt-A-Bin" Program, which will pay for recycling bin acquisition and, maintenance and waste hauling. Each business will be able to place their logo on bins, sponsoring them for one or more years. The program will promote and provide recognition for Saipan's eco-friendly and community-oriented businesses.

The grant also provides job opportunities for a part-time executive director and a project manager for the marine debris program.

MINA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation of the diverse natural resources of the Northern Mariana Islands. MINA's members come from all walks of life and are united by the clear understanding that the people of the Northern Mariana Islands have the right and responsibility to act as stewards of their natural inheritance.

For more information, contact the MINA Office at (670) 233-7333, e-mail mina@minapacific.org or visit http://minapacific.org. ***(MINA)***

Researchers in Fiji spot elusive, endangered bird

SYDNEY (AP)—A group of researchers in Fiji has captured images of an endangered and elusive sea bird, the first confirmed sighting of the chocolate-colored creature at sea.

Scientists photographed the Fiji Petrel soaring above the ocean about 25 miles (40 kilometers) south of Fiji's remote island of Gau in May, according to the U.K.-based conservation group BirdLife International, which helped fund the expedition. The researchers' findings were described in a paper published in this week's Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club.

"Finding this bird and capturing such images was a fantastic and exhilarating experience," the paper's lead author, Hadoram Shirihai, said in a statement.

The bird is listed as critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the producer of the world's Red List of endangered animals.

The first Fiji Petrel specimen was collected in 1855 on Gau, and a second not until 1984. Since then, there have been a handful of reports of birds crashing into houses on Gau, but no one had ever positively identified one at sea, the researchers said.

The finding is significant because there is so little information about the bird, said Nicholas Carlile, sea bird project officer with the New South Wales state Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water.

Carlile has studied the Fiji Petrel for years and began traveling to Fiji in 2003 to hunt for the animal's breeding ground. But despite all his research, even he has never seen one of the elusive birds.

"There has been no positive sighting of the Fiji Petrel at sea — it's very rare," Carlile said. "So it was absolutely fantastic to see those images."

The researchers threw blocks of frozen fish pieces mixed with dense fish oil into the water, creating a smelly slick that attracted the birds. The scientists spotted up to eight petrels over their 11-day expedition.

Expedition member Dick Watling of the conservation group NatureFiji-MareqetiViti said more surveys to locate the birds' breeding area are planned for next year.

"Once we know the location, we can assess what needs to be done to turn around the fortunes of this species," he said.

AP

In this May 2009 image provided by BirdLife International, an elusive Fiji Petrel flies over the waves about 40 kilometers (25 miles) south of Fiji's remote island of Gau. The bird is listed as critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the producer of the world's Red List of endangered animals.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
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/s/ **MICHAEL ADA**
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Council on Developmental Disabilities
Bldg. 1312 Capitol Hill P.O. Box 502565, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-7000 Fax: (670) 644-7030
Email: p.sablan@cnmicdd.org • Website: www.cnmicdd.org

4th Quarterly Council on Developmental Disabilities Board Meeting

Attention General Public:

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities under Chairperson Marissa Guerrero is hereby calling for the Fourth Quarterly Meeting to take place on September 22, 2009 from 1:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saipan at the Council on Developmental Disabilities Conference Room. The meeting is called based upon the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities Bylaws (dated January 31, 2003).

Agenda

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Establishment of Order
IV. Adoption of Agenda
V. Adoption of Minutes – July 6, 2009
VI. Committee Reports
a. HR Committee
b. Call-A-Ride Committee Status Report
c. Membership Committee Report
d. Expiration of Members
VII. Reports
a. Fiscal Officer
b. Family 360 Updates/Report
c. FS 360 Program Coordinator/System Navigator
d. AT Program Coordinator
VIII. Old Business
a. Review and Adoption of By-Laws
b. Council Training in September
IX. New Business
a. Election of CDD Secretary
b. State Plan 2011
X. Open Discussion
XI. Next meeting
XII. Adjournment

In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 3 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/S/ Marissa Guerrero, Chairperson

McLaughlin is Guam's 2010 census adviser

Justin McLaughlin has been chosen to serve as Guam's 2010 census adviser, according to a statement issues yesterday by the Office of the Governor of Guam.

McLaughlin, a certification and accreditation manager at the U.S. Census Bureau, is on site in Guam and will remain until all 2010 census activities and operations are completed and the local census office is closed.

The 2010 Census includes a count of everyone living in Guam. Census data help direct the allocation of federal funding. Strict laws protect the confidentiality of respondents and the information they provide.

"In the ongoing spirit of partnership between Guam and the U.S. Census Bureau, I know that the 2010 Decennial Census will be an intense but rewarding experience for all involved," said McLaughlin. "More importantly, the census will help position Guam to anticipate and meet the needs of its people in the coming decade."

McLaughlin earned his bachelor's degrees in sociology and political science from Kent State University and a master's certificate in information technology project management from George Washington University. He began as a survey statistician in the Service Sector Statistics Division of the Census Bureau in 1998 and then moved to the Economic Statistical Methods and Programming Division's Client Support Branch. In 2006, he spearheaded efforts to centralize and support the bureau's information system security certification and accreditation. ***(PR)***

STAR SANDS DANCERS HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Members of the Inatuas cultural dance group perform local dances in front of Star Sands Plaza along Beach Road in Garapan on Saturday night. Star Sands Plaza in Garapan has tripled its sales in less than a month after taking over ownership of the former La Moda Isla, and has also turned the store into a local landmark with its patented "I Love Saipan" sign on its façade and on souvenir products such as shirts.

New benefits, changes to OnePass program

Continental Airlines has announced changes to its OnePass frequent flyer program, adding new benefits for its customers.

Some of the changes will occur in conjunction with the airline joining Star Alliance on Oct. 27, 2009.

Continental's OnePass members will enjoy reciprocal mileage and redemption opportunities with Star Alliance's 24 member airlines and will be able to connect to more than 950 cities all over the world.

"With our entry into Star Alliance along with several program changes, customers will find the OnePass program to be better than ever," said Mark Bergrud, senior vice president of marketing programs and distribution at Continental Airlines.

When Continental joins Star Alliance, OnePass Platinum and Gold Elite members will become Star Alliance Gold members, gaining recognition and rewards across all member airlines in addition to OnePass benefits. Platinum and Gold Elite members will have access to more than 800 worldwide lounges when traveling on an international itinerary with any Star Alliance member airline, regardless of class of travel. Additionally, Platinum and Gold Elite members will receive an extra baggage allowance of up to three bags or 44 additional pounds (20kg) on both Continental and Star Alliance member airlines and will receive priority services, including priority airport check in, boarding and baggage handling across the network.

In addition to these benefits, upcoming changes to the OnePass program include fewer fees for Platinum Elite members, no more Saturday-night stay required for reward travel and 100 percent Elite Qualification Miles and Points earning on any ticket regardless of where it was bought or issued.

"With change comes opportunity, and we're working hard to ensure the transition to Star is smooth for our customers," said Bergrud. "We look forward to bringing new benefits, better global coverage and more good news later this year. ***(Continental)***

PNG sex cult promises bumper crops

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (PNG Post-Courier/PIR)—A sex cult—where members are promised a bumper banana crop if they engage in public sex—has surfaced in the Tekadu area of Wau in the Morobe Province.

The Banana Cult is headed by a man from Yamine village.

The man and his followers have been engaged in illicit public sex for the past four months and have forced other villagers under threat of violence to participate.

The cult activities were brought to light by Yamine village court chairman Titus Namusa who escaped captivity one night and walked 12 hours to Wau to report the matter.

Wau and Bulolo police will begin a special operation at first light today to reach Yamine, which is behind the Wafi gold project, and bust the illegal activities of the cultists.

Japanese fishing boat uses illegal device

SUVA, Fiji (Fiji Times/PIR)—Activists on the Greenpeace ship Esperanza yesterday witnessed a Japanese vessel hauling a massive catch in the Pacific Ocean using the banned fish aggregating device.

The activists unfurled banners saying "Marine reserves now" and "No return from overfishing" as they filmed a Japanese purse seiner Fukuichi Maru take tuna in a pocket of international waters in the Pacific where key tuna stocks are threatened with collapse.

Greenpeace media adviser Josephine Prasad said they documented the ship using a fish aggregating device (FAD), supposedly banned in the Pacific region for two months.

She said a gaping loophole in the ban was allowing fleets from Japan, the Philippines and New Zealand to continue their plunder of the Pacific.

Japan is the world's largest consumer of tuna and fleets from Japan catch more than a quarter of the Pacific tuna taken annually. Greenpeace Australia Pacific Oceans campaigner Josua Turaganivalu said countries were making a mockery of the two-month ban on FAD fishing.

"In our first week on the high seas, we came across six of the fish aggregating devices although they are banned.

"Today we witnessed a Japanese vessel hauling a massive catch from a FAD, and exemptions in the ban are allowing them to get away with this plunder," said Turaganivalu.

"A total ban on the use of fish aggregation devices is urgently needed. If Pacific tuna species are not protected soon, it will spell the end, not just of Japan's favorite sushi but of a vital resource of Pacific Island countries."

Greenpeace is calling on Japan's new government to lead other major fishing nations in the region to agree to an immediate 50 per cent reduction in Pacific tuna catch, support the closure of all four pockets of international waters to fishing activities, and have them declared as marine reserves to allow tuna stocks to recover.

Several tuna species, such as Pacific bigeye and yellowfin, are already fished beyond their limits and continue to face the spectre of species collapse.

Responding to this, the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission—the Pacific's tuna governing body, of which Japan is a member—agreed to close two of the pockets to purse seine tuna fishing from 2010 onward.

A ban on FAD use in August and September was also instituted. Pacific Island countries also proposed in May to close all four pockets of international waters in between their economic zones where the significant amount of tuna fishing was taking place.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 15, 1999

'Drop takeover plan'

Opposed to a proposal to apply federal immigration laws in the Northern Marianas, leaders of the Legislature appealed to a U.S. Senate committee to drop the plan in favor of joint undertakings with Washington to reform local labor and immigration. They warned the legislation would have adverse impact on the CNMI economy and open the island to a new wave of immigrants and permanent residents who would displace the indigenous people in the future. "Senate Bill No. 1052 is not the vehicle that will further the best interest of the Commonwealth. Instead, it would be the vehicle that destroys our fragile economy and make us dependent once again on federal grant assistance," lawmakers said.

Asiana seeks support for daily flights

Asiana Airlines vice president Young Keun Kim has asked Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio for his continued cooperation in ensuring the success of their daily Saipan-Seoul service. In a letter to the chief executive, YoungKeun said the daily service which began on Sept. 13, 1999 did not start as originally planned because of the delay in the delivery of the new aircraft. "I can assure you that I have paid utmost efforts in my position to keep the promise made during my last visit," said YoungKeun. As a result of the daily flights, the Marianas Visitors Authority is planning to increase the CNMI's visibility in Korea to better highlight the island's features as an ideal destination in the region.

Sept. 15, 2000

Teno summons officials to deal with CUC threat

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio summoned yesterday his finance officials to discuss ways to settle the government debt to the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation following threat of power shutoff by next month. Mike Sablan, the governor's chief finance advisor, Budget and Management Special Assistant Edward S. Tenorio, and Finance Sec. Lucy DLG Nielsen attended the "hastily-called" meeting which began at 3:00 p.m., according to Public Information Office chief Frank S. Rosario. As of press time, there is no word yet regarding result of the discussion, but the governor may issue a statement today in response to CUC's move, he said.

CDA gets new microloan funds from SBA

Fresh cash for local business development is expected to flow from the Commonwealth Development Authority after the Guam-based United States Small Business Administration approved the agency's request for additional funds under the Microloan Program. Executive Director Marylou S. Ada yesterday disclosed that SBA has okayed CDA's request for $420,000 in supplemental funding that would facilitate the expansion of the highly-successful Microloan Program launched in the CNMI late last year. "We are pleased to hear of SBA's favorable response as our initial funding has already been depleted and we continue to receive Microloan applications," said Ms. Ada.

Sept. 15, 2002

August visitor arrivals shrink

Not even an additional 100,000 tourists-as targeted by the government to lure into the CNMI this year-would be enough to place this year's visitor arrival figures on equal footing with last year's statistics. Tourist arrivals in the CNMI this fiscal year reached 382,920 as of August, about 114,681 short to equal last fiscal year's total of 497,601. August arrival figures reflected a 10.3-percent decline from last year's 45,605 to 40,909 this year, as the number of visitors from Japan dwindled further by 23 percent. Japanese tourist arrivals went down to 25,941 from last year's 33,779, but the MVA claimed the figures indicate that tourism relations with the Asian country is recovering from the aftermath of 9/11.

Tinian lawmen assess physical fitness

Thirty-eight individuals from various law enforcement agencies on Tinian participated Friday in a physical fitness test conducted by Department of Public Safety drill instructors. Department of Public Safety Officers Lt. Pedro Muña and Tony Macaranas conducted rigorous exercise drills on law enforcement personnel as part of the Law Enforcement Physical Fitness program to promote and test physical fitness. In addition, an agility test was conducted for candidates of the Combined Law Enforcement Academy and the Police Academy. The exercises included sit-ups, push-ups and a one-mile run that were all strictly timed.

Island Snapshots

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. linemen wait for their certificates to be handed to them Friday afternoon, for completing a two-year U.S. certification training for linemen conducted by the Hawaii-based Pacific Lineman Training.

NEW CUC LINEMEN

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

One of seven Commonwealth Utilities Corp. linemen receives his certificate from his trainor, Pacific Lineman Training LLC's Harry "Spike" Speicher, right, for completing a two-year U.S. certification training for linemen. Looking on are CUC executive director Tony Muna, left, and CUC Abe Malae, the newly hired CUC assistant executive director for power, water and wastewater.

BEACH ROAD FACELIFT

Zoning Office administrator Victor Barrett presents the updated concept of the "Beach Road Corridor Energy Efficient Transportation and Zoning Guidelines Project" during a meeting with members of the House of Representatives yesterday morning. The project's plan and zoning guidelines development has been scaled back by almost 58 percent or from $1.6 million to $680,000 due to other projects and programs tapping into the same source of federal funding, Barrett told members of the House of Representatives during a presentation on Capital Hill on Sept. 9, 2009.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos and Department of Public Safety Commissioner Santiago Tudela, extreme right, look at a copy of a proclamation as Traffic Police Officer Raquel Ogumoro reads the proclamation declaring Sept. 12 to 18 as Child Passenger Safety Week during a ceremony last Thursday.

HELPING THE HUMANITIES

NMI Council for the Humanities acting chair Charles P. Reyes Jr., center left, accepts a $1,000 check from Hayden Corporation Inc. presented by administrative manager Dorothy A. Gauran. Also pictured are Council board members Richard Moreno and Joann Aquino. The Council will use Hayden Corporation's donation to support its ongoing Motheread Family Literacy Program.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Above, Board of Education chairwoman Lucy Blanco-Maratita and vice chairman Herman T. Guerrero examine the latest result of the Public School System's Stanford Achievement Test conducted among public schools last school year 2008-2009.

RETIREES' ASSOCIATION

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Officers of the Commonwealth Retirement Association pose during their meeting last week at Fiesta Resort & Spa. The meeting focused on the upcoming gubernatorial face-off on Sept. 29, where all four candidates will be asked about their plans for Retirement Fund members.

'NOT ENDANGERED ANYMORE'

Rep. Stanley Torres, second from left, defends his resolution calling for the lifting of the endangered species status of the reed warbler during a session held Tuesday, Sept, 8, 2009 on Capital Hill, as other lawmakers listen. Others in picture are, from left, Reps. Diego T. Benavente, Ralph Torres, and Victor Hocog. Torres says lifting the endangered status of the reed warblers will free up land development opportunities on Saipan.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Health-care math

When politicians start talking about paying for programs by cutting "waste and abuse," you should get nervous. When they don't provide specifics—and when the amounts under discussion are in the hundreds of billions of dollars—you should get even more nervous.

President Obama outlined, in his speech to Congress last week, a sensible framework for health-care reform. But here are a few questions he has yet to answer:

-- What exact combination of new revenue and spending cuts is the administration proposing?

-- Will that financing be adequate to underwrite the cost of expanded coverage—not only within the 10-year budget window but beyond?

-- What mechanisms does the administration envision, if any, to control costs if they are greater than anticipated or if projected savings don't materialize?

One approach the president endorsed Wednesday night was to tax insurance companies that offer excessively generous plans, although he did not offer details of the threshold at which this would apply. The administration apparently would set the allowable limit higher—and therefore bring in significantly less money—than the plan being crafted by Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, D-Mont. Mr. Baucus, whose proposed tax is estimated to reap $200 billion over 10 years, would tax plans exceeding $21,000 for a family of four. He would index that cap to the regular consumer price index, not the far higher rate of inflation in medical costs. The lower the initial limit and the lower the inflation index, the more effective the tax would be in restraining health costs, so to the extent that the administration and Mr. Baucus diverge, the Baucus plan is preferable.

Beyond the insurance tax, Mr. Obama was vague about where the money would come from, and administration officials have since declined to provide specifics. Previously, the administration outlined $635 billion in Medicare and Medicaid savings, but it is not clear what it now envisions beyond cutting payments to Medicare Advantage plans that receive higher payments than regular Medicare providers and reducing subsidies to hospitals for treating the uninsured as that population diminishes. Squishy talk about cutting "hundreds of billions of dollars in waste and fraud" isn't enough.

One idea that, like the Monty Python parrot, is not dead yet is some version of the administration's proposal to limit the value of deductions for the highest-bracket taxpayers. The administration originally proposed generating more than $300 billion in revenue by limiting the wealthiest taxpayers, who pay marginal tax rates of 33 and 35 percent, to deductions worth 28 percent. One tweak might be to leave the existing value of deductions in place but not allow the deductions to rise when the Bush tax cuts expire and the highest tax rates revert to 36 and 39.6 percent.

The president has staked out two principles with admirable firmness: Health reform must not add to the federal deficit, and it must slow the rate of health cost inflation. Now he needs to support the detailed measures that will fulfill both pledges.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post

The long road to reform

By DOYLE MCMANUS
(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times

McManus is a Times *columnist. He can be reached at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.*

President Barack Obama set out a long list of worthy goals in his health care speech to Congress last week, but at least one of them was utterly unrealistic. "I am not the first president to take up this cause," he said, "but I am determined to be the last."

If Obama succeeds in winning a comprehensive health care bill, he will have established, for the first time, a federal government obligation to make some kind of health insurance available to every citizen. That's a monumental achievement.

But it will be only the first step in a process of designing, launching and improving a new health care system for a nation of some 300 million. That's a monumental task.

And it won't be completed in a single presidency—not even a two-term presidency that would run until 2017. If Obama succeeds, most of the new program won't even be launched until 2013, so his successors will inherit the job of managing the system he builds and—when flaws reveal themselves, as they inevitably will—the obligation to make adjustments.

"The repair is going to be a process, not a one-time event," Atul Gawande, the celebrated physician-journalist at The New Yorker, wrote last week. "Reform will have to be more like a series of operations, with X-rays and tests in between to see how we're doing."

Whatever bill gets through Congress this fall—and it seems increasingly likely that one will—is almost certain to obligate citizens to obtain insurance, require insurance companies to offer "affordable" basic policies and impose taxes and Medicare payment cuts to help pay the insurance bills of low-income families.

But no matter how specific the bill gets, it can't guarantee that the president's proposals for funding the plan will generate enough to cover the costs.

And the bill won't reshape the medical system to focus on overall care instead of individual procedures—at least, not yet. It only launches a series of experiments and studies to see what works and what doesn't.

The most intriguing question the bill can't answer is this: How will the practice of medicine—the way doctors, nurses and hospitals treat their patients—change to make all this work?

There's no question it will have to change. "If you talk to doctors, they'll tell you, 'Yeah, we're practicing inefficiently, and we know it,'" said Dr. Mark McClellan, who ran Medicare under President George W. Bush and supports the basic thrust of Obama's plan.

How do we get from our current patchwork system to one that works better? Reformers want to nudge doctors in the right direction by changing the way they're paid.

The Democratic proposals include bonus payments for doctors and hospitals that coordinate care, for example, so patients don't bounce from specialist to specialist, repeating the same tests at every stop. But the bills are still too tentative, in McClellan's view. "We need more carrots, more incentives on the positive side—but we need more disincentives, more sticks, too."

For one thing, some doctors won't be willing or able to move into new payment systems. The government currently plans to wring savings from them the old-fashioned way, by cutting Medicare fees across the board. But that kind of cost-cutting doesn't do anything to make doctors more efficient or effective.

One answer, McClellan said, is to track doctors' practices more closely, to offer targeted rewards for those who improve both service and efficiency—and targeted penalties for those who don't.

This is called "provider payment reform," a term you'll hear more often as 2013 nears. Does it mean a more intrusive government role in medicine? Sure. But federal, state and local governments already pay almost half of all the health care bills in the country. Government is already involved. And with increased scrutiny will come a beneficial side effect: more transparency.

Right now, the U.S. health care system is a patchwork of different systems—Medicare for the elderly, Medicaid for the poor, military and veterans' medicine, private insurance for the fully employed, and a lot of cracks in between.

Decisions about how much to spend on health, and how, have often been made through backroom battles among big institutions: employers, insurance companies, drug companies and hospitals. Doctors and patients have been among the least influential players.

By expanding the federal role in health care, and by setting up a system that guarantees all citizens access to affordable insurance, Obama's plan gives everyone a stake in its success. Voters will want to know that this system is working well at a reasonable cost. They'll demand—even more than they do now—evidence that their money is being well spent. Future Congresses and presidents, far from being relieved of the issue, will find themselves debating it year after year. American medicine is being politicized—and that may not be a bad thing.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

US needs to keep it simple in Afghanistan

By AHMED RASHID
Special to The Washington Post

Rashid, a Pakistani journalist who has covered Afghanistan for 30 years, is the author of Taliban *and* Descent into Chaos: The U.S. and the Disaster in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Central Asia.

For much of the 20th century before the 1979 Soviet invasion, Afghanistan was a peaceful country living in harmony with its neighbors.

There was a king and a real government, which I witnessed in the 1970s when I frequently traveled there. Afghanistan had what I'll call a minimalist state, compared with the vast governmental apparatuses that colonialists left behind in British India and Soviet Central Asia.

This bare-bones structure worked well for a poor country with a small population, few natural resources and a mix of ethnic groups and tribes that were poorly connected with one another because of the rugged terrain. The center was strong enough to maintain law and order, though never strong enough to undermine the tribes' autonomy.

Afghanistan was not aiming to be a modern country or a regional superpower. The economy was subsistence-level, but nobody starved. Everyone had a job, though farm labor was intermittent. There was a tiny urban middle class, but the gap between rich and poor was not that big. There was no such thing as Islamic extremism or a narco-state.

In 2002, I urged the Bush administration to focus on rebuilding Afghanistan's minimalist state, which had been destroyed by 30 years of war. Experts in Washington, some now closely associated with Richard Holbrooke, the U.S. special representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan, estimated then that it would cost the international community about $5 billion a year for 10 years to re-create a basic Afghan state that could counter any threat from al-Qaida or the Taliban.

The keys were investing in agriculture, because that is where jobs lie; rebuilding roads that used to link the major cities and border towns, so the economy could take off; and investing in an Afghan army and police force. The country also needed a workable government model, modern and inclusive education and health programs, and a functioning justice system.

We all know what happened. The Bush administration left Afghanistan underresourced, underfunded and in the hands of the CIA and warlords, and went off to fight in Iraq.

When al-Qaida and the Taliban saw that George W. Bush was not serious about Afghanistan, they found it easy to return. The insurgency began in summer 2003, as the Taliban reoccupied large chunks of the country, used drug money to arm its men, and improved their firepower and tactics so much that the Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, Adm. Mike Mullen, recently said the situation is "serious" and "deteriorating."

Now any operation to patch together a minimalist Afghan state would cost $10 billion to $15 billion a year and require tens of thousands more Western troops, which nobody is going to provide.

Today Washington is bickering over what constitutes success in Afghanistan, whether the Obama plan will work, how many more troops and dollars are needed, and how to stop its alleged NATO allies from slipping out through the back door.

Many dissenters in Washington, such as columnist George Will, insist that the Afghans are incapable of learning and unwilling to build a modern state. Others, including former British diplomat Rory Stewart, say Afghan society should be left alone. But the dissenters do not sufficiently acknowledge the Bush administration's failures that led us to this impasse. Worse, they offer no solutions.

So what needs to be done?

First, Americans and Europeans need to be told the truth: Their governments have failed them in Afghanistan in the last eight years, with not a single aspect of rebuilding the minimalist state undertaken until it was too late. The capital, Kabul, for example, got regular electricity only this year, despite billions of dollars in international aid. The terrorist threat has grown, and al-Qaida has spread tentacles throughout Africa and Europe. And the West must admit that the Taliban has become a brand name that resonates deep into Pakistan and Central Asia and could extend into India and China.

Second, the minimalist state must be rebuilt at breakneck speed. President Obama understands this. His plan for the first time emphasizes agriculture, job creation and justice; on paper, at least, it's an incisive and productive blueprint. But will he be given the time to carry it out?

The Democrats want to give him just until next year's congressional elections and then start bringing the troops home. The Republicans are looking for slipups, such as the apparent fraud in the presidential election last month, so they can pounce. But the administration needs up to three years for any chance of success. So Obama's first task is to create public and congressional support to give the plan sufficient time.

Third, the insurgency can never be defeated as long as the rebels enjoy a haven. The retreating Afghan Taliban was welcomed in Pakistan in 2001 and is still tolerated there because of a certain logic put forward by the Pakistan army that mainly involves containing India's growing power in the region and in Afghanistan in particular.

Bush never pushed this issue, choosing to treat then-Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf with kid gloves. Today the Islamabad government is divided between civilians and the military, and as the civilians show themselves more inept, the army's power is once again ascendant.

In recent months the army has seemed more determined to take on the Pakistani Taliban—since April it has lost 312 soldiers and killed some 2,000 Taliban members. Yet there is no strategic shift to take on the Afghan Taliban and al-Qaida in the tribal areas that border Afghanistan.

Despite Holbrooke's attempts to pursue a regional strategy, there is still no breakthrough with Pakistan. And India continues to act tough with Islamabad, offering the Americans little room to maneuver. There is no easy way out of this quandary except time and more international aid to Pakistan.

Last, there must be Afghan partners on the ground to help build a minimalist state. Bush ignored that too. The corruption, the growth of the drug trade and the failure to build representative institutions after partially successful elections in 2004 and 2005 were all glossed over, as Bush feted President Hamid Karzai and did not ask hard questions.

The apparent rigging of the Aug. 20 elections has plunged Afghanistan into a political and constitutional crisis for which neither America nor the United Nations has any answer. But the electoral fraud was assured months ago when Karzai began to ally himself with regional warlords, drug traffickers and top officials in the provinces who were terrified of losing their jobs and their lucrative sinecures if Karzai lost. It seemed obvious to everyone except those who mattered in the West.

To emerge from this mess with even moderately credible Afghan partners will be difficult, but it must be done. (The Americans could start by forcing Karzai to create a government that includes all leading opposition figures.) Without a partner, the United States becomes nothing but an occupying force that Afghans will resist and NATO will not want to support. Holbrooke's skills as a power broker will be sorely tested.

The Obama administration can come out of this quagmire if it aims low, targets the bad guys, builds a regional consensus, keeps the American public on its side and gives the Afghans what they really want—merely the chance to have a better life.

There is no alternative but for the United States to remain committed to rebuilding a minimalist state in Afghanistan. Nothing less will stop the Taliban and al-Qaida from again using Afghanistan and now Pakistan to wreak havoc in the region and around the world.

Letters to the Editor

Giving kids alternatives

The Tinian Basketball Club would like to express our appreciation to those who assisted us in a successful and fun Friendship Basketball Tournament. We are grateful to Rep. Edwin Aldan, Sen. Jude Hofschneider and Bill Cing, the boys of Garapan Rollers Basketball Club, Unified Basketball Association, Joe Diaz and his family.

It was a wonderful experience and we learned a lot from the trip. It is refreshing to play a club that stresses participation over competition. Both TBC and RBC believe that sportsmanship and fundamentals come before everything else.

We would also like to thank James Lee and the UBA for putting up a first-rate tournament. To all organization members that took the time to referee and officiate the games, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. UBA's goals in promoting the sport at the grassroots level are commendable.

It is not enough to tell the kids to just say no or to stay away from harmful drugs and alcohol. Kids need to be given alternatives and activities to occupy their time. Youth organizations such as the RBC are important in communities in that they teach life skills and keep kids healthy. We need more organizations that reach out to younger kids 12 and below before they develop bad habits.

The Rollers Basketball Club is a blueprint that we will use to organize ourselves. Kids take a lot of time, energy and a little money, but we feel they are worth it. Youth organizations are proactive and preventive—pay a little now rather then pay a lot later. Most juvenile delinquents didn't get much care and supervision. Thank you all once again.

Ed Temengil
Coach, Tinian Basketball Club, Tinian

Register and be heard!

Dear Friends of the Monument: Last year you and over 6,000 other Commonwealth residents exercised your First Amendment rights and signed a petition asking then-President George W. Bush to designate a large no-take marine protected area in the far northern waters of the Marianas.

I traveled to Washington, D.C. in December last year and hand-delivered your signatures to then-Council on Environmental Quality chair James L. Connaughton. The results of our grassroots efforts are now a part of history. On Jan. 6, 2009, then-President Bush declared the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument, one of the largest protected areas on the face of the planet.

This would not have happened had it not been for your participation. I have thanked you before and I have to thank you again for your support.

This year provides another opportunity to exercise your rights as an American citizen, because 2009 is an election year.

There are many qualified, dedicated, passionate candidates running and they will need your votes in the upcoming election. Make your voice heard by making sure you are registered to vote!

I strongly encourage you to register to vote if you have not already.

You can register at the Commonwealth Election Commission Monday through Friday from 7:30am to 4:30pm or on Saturdays at Costco from 9am to 1pm. Remember, you will need to bring a valid U.S. passport or birth certificate.

Call the Commonwealth Election Commission at (670) 664-VOTE or visit http://www.votecnmi.gov.mp/ for more information. The last day to register is this Friday, Sept. 18, 2009.

Ignacio V Cabrera
Chair, Friends of the Monument

Thank you

The Tinian Youth Center would like to take this opportunity to extend its deepest appreciation to the following individuals and corporations for giving their time and in-kind contributions, and for making our 2009 Summer youth program a success this year. It is people like you who truly make a difference in the lives of the youth of today.

All the parents of our participants:
Mrs. Arley Long
Mr. Jose P. Kiyoshi
Mr. Alex Sandbergen
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph M. Mendiola
Mr. Sonny Decena
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin P. Aldan
Tinian Health Center
Mr. and Mrs. Joaquin H. Borja
Mrs. Mary Muna
Mr. Eric Hofschneider
Mayor Jose P. San Nicolas and MOT
JJ Mart
Island Store
Fleming Store
Long Feng
Family Store
3K Market and Laundry
Tinian Ice & Water Comp.
Huang Shun Corp.
Again, *un dangkulu na si yu'us ma'ase.*

Fred O. Omengkar
TYC- Summer Program Coordinator

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Damaging winds. Southwest winds 35 to 50 mph with gusts to 75 mph. Cloudy with numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy and windy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southwest winds 25 to 30 mph with gusts to 40 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲83° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Rain	▲85	▼77
Palau	Sunny	▲87	▼78
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Partly Sunny	▲87	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲88	▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲88	▼76
Majuro	Sunny	▲88	▼78

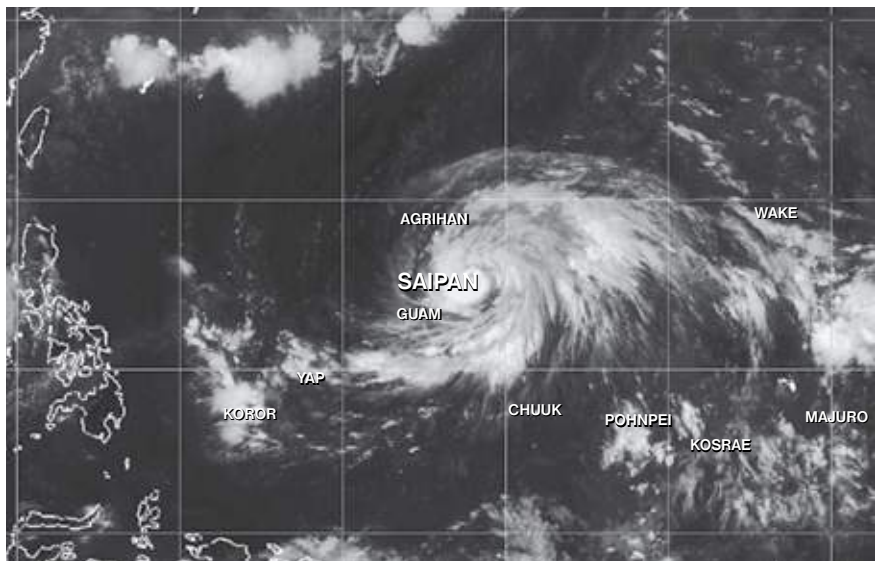
Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲66	▼55
Beijing	Sunny	▲90	▼52
Hong Kong	Rain	▲88	▼81
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼75
London	Showers	▲64	▼54
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲78	▼62
Manila	Showers	▲87	▼77
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲68	▼48
Miami	Thundershowers	▲89	▼78
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲79	▼60
Osaka	Showers	▲72	▼63
Paris	Rain	▲59	▼49
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲81	▼63
Rome	Showers	▲75	▼61
Salem	Sunny	▲82	▼55
San Francisco	Sunny	▲72	▼58
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲77	▼57
Tokyo	Showers	▲77	▼68
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼65

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
2:56 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
10:35 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
5:51 PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
11:15 PM Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Choi-wan (15W) is centered east of the Marianas near 16N148E. Numerous showers and scattered thunderstorms are found up to 350 miles north of a line from 14N147E to 16N157E and scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring within 75 miles of a line from 10N137E to 11N150E to 14N152E. For more detailed information on Choi-wan, see JTWC bulletins issued under WMO header WTPN21 and NWSFO Guam advisories issued under WMO header WTPQ31. Strong low-level convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Koror within 100 miles of a line from 12N132E to 5N135E and north of the Marshall Islands within 175 miles of a line from 17N154E to 10N175E. A surface trough arcing northeastward from 8N158E to 12N170E is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Pohnpei, Kosrae and parts of the Marshall Islands between the equator and 8N from 157E to 180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:06 AM	6:19 PM
Wednesday	6:06 AM	6:18 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:17 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:17 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:16 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:11 AM	3:26 PM
Wednesday	3:14 AM	4:14 PM
Thursday	4:15 AM	4:59 PM
Friday	5:13 AM	5:42 PM
Saturday	6:11 AM	6:24 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:50am	12:25pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:20am	5:10am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
C09603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

C0941	5:30am	8:05am	Daily
NW99	6:05am	8:40am	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25pm	Daily
C0943	5:25pm	8:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1, 3, 4, 6

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1, 3, 4, 6 via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/933	3:30pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:15am	3:50am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:10am	2:40am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09598	2:10am	3:50am	5, 6 via ROP
C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:20am	11:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

C0942	9:25am	1:55pm	Daily
NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:35pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NGO
NW100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily
C0944	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	4, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:50pm	2:30pm+1	3, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	4, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Business

Car dealers fight slow sales after end of Clunkers

YPSILANTI TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP)—As Gene Butman Ford opened its doors Saturday, salesmen outnumbered the shoppers looking at a depleted stock of cars and trucks, and it didn't appear that many customers were ready to buy.

Like many dealers across the country, the dealership in Ypsilanti Township, Mich., west of Detroit, is suffering from a Cash for Clunkers hangover, and Sales Manager Paul Grahl isn't sure when it will end.

"We're getting some traffic, but my business is a long way from healthy," said the longtime salesman. "We suspect it's going to be 90 days before we get back to any kind of normalcy."

The clunkers program lured hundreds of thousands of people to dealers in July and August with government rebates of up to $4,500 to trade in older, inefficient vehicles for newer, more fuel-efficient ones.

While most dealers are grateful for the boost, they're paying for it now with fewer customers. The government rebates drew people into the market who otherwise would have kept driving their clunkers due to uncertainty over the sputtering economy. Those customers might have made their purchases later in the year.

"It was good while it lasted," said Phil Warren, sales manager at Toyota Direct in Columbus, Ohio. "Now we're a little bit concerned about what happens next. The program may have just taken a lot of people out of the market."

Making matters worse, many dealers depleted their stocks with clunker sales, and automakers have been slow to ramp up production to replenish the lots. Grahl says Ford has built the cars he ordered but mysteriously hasn't shipped them. So the selection isn't very good for people who do want to buy.

"We've noticed that," said Amy Whiting, who with her husband, Frank, was shopping this weekend at a Pontiac-Buick-GMC dealer near Butman Ford. "You drive in the lot and it's gone."

The Whitings, who had trouble finding a Toyota Matrix compact, instead bought a used Pontiac Vibe, a General Motors version of the Matrix built at a soon-to-be-shuttered California factory that's a joint venture between GM and Toyota.

Dealers across the country reported sparse selections on their lots as inventories shrunk to near record low levels. At the end of August, GM reported 379,000 cars and trucks in its supply, about half of what it had in August of last year. Ford Motor Co. had 243,000 cars and trucks, down from 461,000 a year ago.

David Kelleher, who owns two Chrysler dealerships in the Philadelphia area, said he sold out of many products.

AP

A Jeep Cherokee turned in during the Cash for Clunkers program is seen at the Riverside Auto Mall, Saturday, Sept. 12, 2009 in Marquette, Mich.

Layoffs lead to fewer corporate blood donors in US

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)—Before the recession hit, Jacksonville's blood bank would pull its buses up to the Anheuser-Busch brewery and pump 300 units of blood from employees.

Then came buyouts, retirements and layoffs. During the company's last blood drive, the Blood Alliance only collected about 45 units.

Which is why, on a recent day, the organization's bloodmobile was parked in a driving rainstorm outside a small law firm. With the smell of latex gloves in the air, donors read the paper and listened to soft rock on the radio as workers pricked their arms with needles.

"We have to do smaller blood drives," explained John Helgren, a spokesman for the Blood Alliance. "We have to work harder to get blood these days."

In some hard-hit pockets of the country, from Florida to Michigan to Southern California, blood centers are noticing a pattern: corporate drives are attracting fewer donors, likely because of the economy.

The nation's overall blood supply is adequate to cover local shortages, but in some areas a majority of blood is donated during workplace drives because people tend to give where it's convenient. When workers are laid off or aren't replaced after retirements and buyouts, there are fewer donors. The employees who are left don't feel like they can take the time to give, or don't feel like it. That leaves the local blood banks scrambling.

"We are seeing a direct effect of the recession," said Toni Gould, spokeswoman for Michigan Community Blood Centers, which has seen a 15 percent to 20 percent drop this summer. The state's unemployment rate of 15.6 percent is the nation's highest. "So many businesses and factories are closing, and they accounted for a large share of mobile drives."

It's a similar story in Wisconsin, where a spokeswoman from the Badger-Hawkeye Red Cross says 33 corporate drives were canceled from June through August, resulting in 1,700 fewer units collected. The state's unemployment rate of 8.7 percent has doubled in the last year.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil drops below $69 as dollar gains, stocks slide

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices dropped below $69 a barrel Monday in Asia amid a stronger U.S. dollar and a slide in regional stock markets. Benchmark crude for October delivery was down 83 cents at $68.46 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. On Friday, the contract tumbled $2.65 to settle at $69.29. Oil prices have fallen about $4 in the last two trading days as the dollar rebounded off its lows of the year last week. Oil is priced in dollars so it becomes more expensive when the U.S. currency gains.

Coca-Cola says Chinese ex-employee in police probe

BEIJING (AP)—A former employee of a Coca-Cola Co. bottling plant in China has been detained by police, a company official said Sunday, amid news reports that the person was being investigated for allegedly accepting bribes of almost $1.5 million. Kenth Kaerhoeg, a Coca-Cola spokesman in Hong Kong, confirmed the detention of a former employee of the company's Shanghai bottling plant, run by Shenmei Beverage and Food Co., but did not give details. Kaerhoeg said in an e-mailed statement that Shenmei is "actively cooperating with the police investigation in strict compliance with relevant laws and regulations."

India's Jet Airways pilots end strike after 5 days

NEW DELHI (AP)—Pilots at India's Jet Airways resumed work Sunday ending a five-day strike that led to the cancellation of more than 800 flights, company officials said. The standoff between the airline and its pilots ended late Saturday after the company agreed to reinstate four pilots who were fired for trying to form a pilots' union. "We have reached an amicable agreement on all issues," Saroj Dutta, executive director at Jet Airways, told reporters. From Sunday, "the airline will operate its full schedule of services" on its domestic and international flights with all crew reporting for duty, it said in a statement.

Risk-taking is back for banks 1 year after crisis

NEW YORK (AP)—A year after the financial system nearly collapsed, the nation's biggest banks are bigger and regaining their appetite for risk.

Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan Chase and others—which have received tens of billions of dollars in federal aid—are once more betting big on bonds, commodities and exotic financial products, trading that nearly stopped during the financial crisis.

That Wall Street is making money again in essentially the same ways that thrust the banking system into chaos last fall is reason for concern on several levels, financial analysts and government officials say.

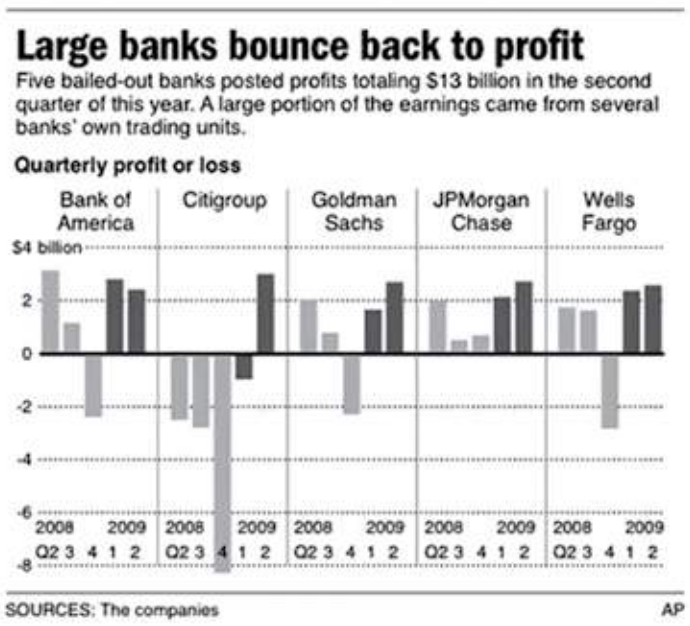
■ There have been no significant changes to the federal rules governing their behavior. Proposals that have been made to better monitor the financial system and to police the products banks sell to consumers have been held up by lobbyists, lawmakers and turf-protecting regulators.

■ Through mergers and the failure of Lehman Brothers, the mammoth banks whose near-collapse prompted government rescues have gotten even bigger, increasing the risk they pose to the financial system. And they still make bets that, in the aggregate, are worth far more than the capital they have on hand to cover against potential losses.

■ The government's response to last year's meltdown was to spend whatever it takes to protect the financial system from collapse—a precedent that could encourage even greater risk-taking from the private sector.

Lawrence Summers, director of the White House National Economic Council, says an overhaul of financial regulations is needed as soon as possible to keep the financial system safe over the long haul.

"You cannot rely on the scars of past crises to ensure against practices that will lead to future crises," Summers says.



Consumer spending could boost the stock market

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Wall Street wants consumers to do their part to heal the economy. Traders know it's going to take some time.

Investors will get some insight this week into how much consumers are spending from a government report on August retail sales. They'll also get an indicator of how willing consumers are to borrow money to make those purchases when credit card lender Discover Financial Services reports earnings.

"I think everybody is focusing so heavily on if people are releasing some of those dollars they have been clinging so tightly to over the past year," said Jamie Cox, managing partner at Harris Financial Group in Colonial Heights, Va.

Analysts say investors need to see evidence that consumer spending is picking up before the market can extend its recent gains. Economists surveyed by Thomson Reuters estimate retail sales increased 1.2 percent last month, after falling 0.1 percent in July. The report comes out Tuesday.

Many analysts have been expecting a pullback in the markets, which have risen more than 50 percent since bottoming out at a 12-year low in early March. The S&P 500 index, a widely used market gauge and the basis for many mutual funds, rose for five days before slipping Friday and ending the week up 2.6 percent. The Dow rose 164 points, or 1.7 percent, for the week.

"The market could take a breather before third-quarter earnings reports," said Peter Cardillo, chief market economist at New York-based brokerage house Avalon Partners Inc. Companies will start reporting results in early October for the three months ending in September.

Nation

Police: Found body is likely missing Yale student

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP)—Police on Sunday said they found what they believe is the body of a Yale University graduate student and bride-to-be hidden inside the wall of a university building where she was last seen five days before.

New Haven Assistant Police Chief Peter Reichard said officials are presuming the body was that of doctoral student Annie Le, who has been the focus of a massive police search since Tuesday.

"It hasn't been positively identified as of this time," Reichard told reporters Sunday night. "However, we are assuming it is her ... so we are treating it as a homicide."

State police found the body at around 5 p.m. Sunday in an area of the building that houses utility cables that run between floors. The building is in the Ivy League school's medical complex, about a mile from the main campus.

Reichard said police also recovered "a large amount" of physical evidence, but he would not discuss what that included.

Yale President Richard Levin offered support to Le's family and her fiance, Columbia University graduate student Jonathan Widawsky. The couple was to marry Sunday in Syosset, N.Y., on Long Island's north shore.

"The family and fiance and friends now must suffer the additional ordeal of waiting for the body to be positively identified," Levin said. "I met earlier this evening with Annie's family, with her fiance and his family and I conveyed to them all the deeply felt support of the entire university community."

Police on Sunday would not say if they have any suspects. They previously have said Widawsky is not a suspect and is assisting with the investigation.

Le, 24, was last seen Tuesday morning in the five-story building that housed the laboratory where she worked. Surveillance video shows her arriving around 10 a.m., but police had been baffled since the investigation began because there was no video of Le leaving, despite some 75 surveillance cameras operating around the complex. Her ID, money, credit cards and purse were found in her office.

More than 100 local, state and federal police had been searching the building for days, using blueprints to uncover any place where evidence or Le's body could be hidden.

Investigators on Saturday said they recovered evidence from the building, but would not confirm media reports that the items included bloody clothing.

AP

Yale University graduate students leave after setting up a vigil for missing graduate student Annie Le, in front of 10 Amistad Street in New Haven, Conn., Sunday, Sept. 13, 2009.

Sebelius: Swine flu shots may start early October

WASHINGTON (AP)—The nation's first round of swine flu shots could begin sooner than expected, with some vaccine available as early as the first week of October, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said Sunday.

Sebelius said she is confident the vaccine will be available early enough to beat the peak of the expected flu season this fall and that early doses are intended for health care workers and other high-priority groups.

Sebelius

"We're on track to have an ample supply rolling by the middle of October. But we may have some early vaccine as early as the first full week in October. We'll get the vaccine out the door as fast as it rolls off the production line," she told ABC's "This Week."

The possibility of early shots follows encouraging news from last week about the swine flu vaccine. Researchers have discovered that one dose instead of two could be enough for healthy adults, and protection could begin once vaccinated within 10 days instead of three weeks.

"That's great, which means we'll have a lot more vaccine," she said. "We also have seen a robust immune response within 10 days, instead of three weeks as was feared."

Sebelius said the vaccine doses will be distributed immediately to designated locations across the country once they are available.

"Every state has a plan saying these are the sites to get the vaccine as quickly as possible into people's arms. That's where the distribution will go," she said.

"So, the first week in October, we expect some of the vaccine to begin to roll, and by mid-October, to have the kind of supplies we were talking about. But we may have some available earlier. And we'll get it out to states as fast as it comes off the production lines," Sebelius said.

50 million new patients? More primary docs a must

BOSTON (AP)—When Dr. Robert Flaherty launched a private practice in 2001, he soon found himself cramming in as many patients as possible to make ends meet, leaving little time to discuss with them the steps they could take to prevent future health troubles.

"I constantly felt that conflict of going faster than I should," said Flaherty, 40, of Mashpee, who gave up his practice after four years for a hospital post. "Everyone knows if you want to make a decent living, become a specialist; if you want to be banging your head, go into primary care."

Among the many hurdles facing President Barack Obama's plan to revamp the nation's health care system is a shortage of primary care physicians—those legions of overworked doctors who provide the front line of medical care for both the sick and those hoping to stay healthy.

As Massachusetts' experience shows, extending health care to 50 million uninsured Americans will only further stress the system and could force many of those newly insured back into costly emergency rooms for routine care if they can't find a primary care doctor, health care observers said.

Massachusetts, home of the nation's most ambitious health care law, has seen the need for primary care doctors shoot up with the addition of 428,000 people to the ranks of the insured under a 2006 law that mandates health care for nearly all residents.

To keep up with the demand for primary care doctors, the country will need to add another 40,000 to the existing 100,000 doctors over the next decade or face a soaring backlog, according to Dr. Ted Epperly, president of the Kansas-based American Academy of Family Physicians.

Probe into Ill. fundraiser's death looks at drugs

CHICAGO (AP)—The investigation into the death of the former chief fundraiser for ousted Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich intensified on Sunday as medical examiners completed an autopsy and detectives looked into whether drugs found in the trusted aide's vehicle might have factored into his death.

Dwight Welch, the mayor of suburban Country Club Hills where Kelly was found slumped over his vehicle's steering wheel in a lumber yard, said a number of drugs were found in the former fundraiser's black Cadillac Escalade but declined to say which drugs. He did say the investigation was being treated as a possible suicide.

Welch said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press on Sunday morning that it was his understanding that Kelly had told an officer at the hospital that he had "taken on overdose of something." But on Sunday afternoon he backed off that statement and said he was not "confirming or denying" that Kelly had made such a statement to police.

The Cook County Medical Examiner's performed an autopsy but said Sunday it couldn't determine the cause of death until toxicology tests are completed in 3-6 weeks.

Kelly died Saturday morning at a Chicago hospital, and Welch said his city's police detectives were investigating the death as a suicide but giving the case the priority of a homicide.

An admitted high-stakes gambler who once haunted Las Vegas' card tables, Kelly was facing at least eight years in prison after pleading guilty to fraud charges in two separate cases, and he was scheduled to start serving his time on Friday.

Welch said detectives want to interview Clarissa Flores-Buhelos, 30, who he said was Kelly's girlfriend. Flores-Buhelos told police she found Kelly Friday night slumped over the wheel of his Escalade at the lumber yard, Welch said. Kelly is believed to have rented storage space nearby.

ACROSS THE NATION

Rare killing stirs remorse in Vermont villagers

WOODSTOCK, Vt. (AP)—Some coins here, a couple of lottery tickets there, a wallet stolen from a parked car, some food taken from a vacant house. When a rash of break-ins and burglaries hit earlier this year, lots of people here figured it was probably just Charles "Punky" Haynes, stealing to keep body and soul together. Some of the thefts went unreported, or blamed on Haynes, a 51-year-old vagabond with a name for sleeping off alcohol binges under a covered bridge, or in unoccupied vacation homes.

'Billboard' bank robbery suspect nabbed in Mo.

KINGDOM CITY, Mo. (AP)—A man suspected of robbing banks in five states has been captured in Missouri after someone recognized him from the television show America's Most Wanted. The Missouri State Highway Patrol said in a news release Sunday that Chad E. Schaffner was arrested Saturday at a motel in the small town of Kingdom City, about 25 miles east of Columbia. The 37-year-old Indianapolis man was wanted on felony warrants for bank robbery, burglary, armed robbery and receiving stolen property. Authorities believe he robbed banks in Illinois, Kentucky, North and South Carolina and Tennessee.

2 elite skydivers die when chutes tangle near Lodi

LODI, Calif. (AP)—Two members of an elite skydiving team were killed when their parachutes got entangled at 6,000 feet during a group jump in Northern California. Bill Dause—owner of the Parachute Center near Lodi—says the men were part of the Red Line jumping team, an eight-member group who was practicing Sunday for the U.S. Parachute Association national skydiving championships next month. Dause says the team was jumping in close formation when three parachutes became entangled. One diver was able to separate and safely deploy his chute, another died immediately on hitting the ground, and another died at a hospital. Authorities have not released their names.

County wants millions to fix image after ash spill

KINGSTON, Tenn. (AP)—For a Tennessee community that fears being forever linked to one of the country's worst environmental disasters, an estimated $1 billion being spent to clean up a massive coal ash spill that flooded its lakeside homes isn't enough. Roane County leaders want millions more dollars to repair their economy and image after 5.4 million cubic yards of toxin-laden muck breached a holding pond at the Tennessee Valley Authority's Kingston Fossil Plant on Dec. 22. "We are not trying to take advantage of anything. We didn't ask for this. We didn't go out looking for it. We are not ambulance chasers," Kingston Mayor Troy Beets said. "We are trying to recover from a hit in the mouth."

Asia

Six Hong Kong workers die in elevator shaft fall

HONG KONG (AP)—A construction platform inside an elevator shaft collapsed Sunday, sending six workers falling about 20 stories to their deaths inside a Hong Kong skyscraper, officials said.

The accident occurred at the International Commerce Center, which will be 118 stories high when completed next year, making it one of the world's tallest buildings and the highest in Hong Kong.

Speaking at the scene in the Kowloon district, Hong Kong leader Donald Tsang told reporters the men fell after the platform they were working on collapsed in the elevator shaft.

All six workers died, police spokesman Michael Kwan said. The workers were believed to have fallen from around the 30th floor to the 10th floor, he said.

The building's developer, major Hong Kong property company Sun Hung Kai, has agreed to pay each of the victims' families 1 million Hong Kong dollars ($128,000) on top of normal compensation payments, Hong Kong Labor Secretary Matthew Cheung told local media.

Sun Hung Kai did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Construction accidents in Hong Kong declined by about 76 percent from 1998 to 2008, as the government worked to enhance safety amid a continuous push by developers to build the soaring office and residential towers that have become a hallmark of the city.

4 killed in missile attack in Pakistan

MIR ALI, Pakistan (AP)—A missile fired from a suspected unmanned U.S. plane slammed into a car in a Pakistani tribal region close to the Afghan border on Monday, killing four people, intelligence officials and residents said.

The apparent American strike was the latest of more than 50 in the region since last year aimed at killing top al-Qaida and Taliban leaders. Last month, the head of the Pakistani Taliban was killed in one such strike.

Monday's attack took place about 1.5 miles (3 kilometers) from the town of Mir Ali in North Waziristan, killing four people, two officials and witnesses said. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity, saying they need to remain unnamed to do their job effectively.

The identities of the victims were not known.

Witnesses Ikramullah Khan and Mohammad Salim said the missile hit a vehicle with blacked-out windows—a style associated with Taliban fighters in the region.

Pakistan protests the U.S. missile strikes as violations of its sovereignty and say they fan support for the insurgents, but Washington has shown no sign of abandoning a tactic that it says has killed several ranking militants and disrupted their operations.

Islamist militants with roots in the border region launch near-daily attacks on Pakistan's U.S.-backed government and security forces. The mountainous, lawless area is also used as a safe haven from which to stage attacks on foreign forces in Afghanistan.

Under pressure from the West, Pakistan in April launched an offensive in the northwestern Swat Valley, which had fallen under Taliban control. It claims to have cleared most of Swat of the militants and killed more than 1,800 of them, although sporadic militant attacks continue.

The army announced the capture last week of five top Swat Taliban commanders.

Freed Vietnamese blogger has agreed to stop writing

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—A woman who was jailed after writing a blog critical of the Vietnamese government said Monday that she agreed to stop blogging as a condition of her release.

"It's time for me to put an end to this blog," Nguyen Ngoc Nhu Quynh said in a handwritten statement posted on her Web site Monday, following her release over the weekend. "I came to blogging as an adventure in the world of information, but every game comes to an end."

Quynh was one of three online writers arrested and released by Vietnamese authorities since late August. All of them wrote critically about Vietnam's policies toward its powerful northern neighbor, China.

The three also planned to produce anti-China T-shirts, according to a foreign diplomat who declined to be named, citing embassy protocol.

The bloggers had chided the Vietnamese government for not taking a stronger stand in a territorial dispute with China over the Spratly and Paracels archipelagos in the South China Sea. They also objected to Vietnam's plans for a large bauxite mine in the strategically important Central Highlands. A Chinese firm is building part of the project.

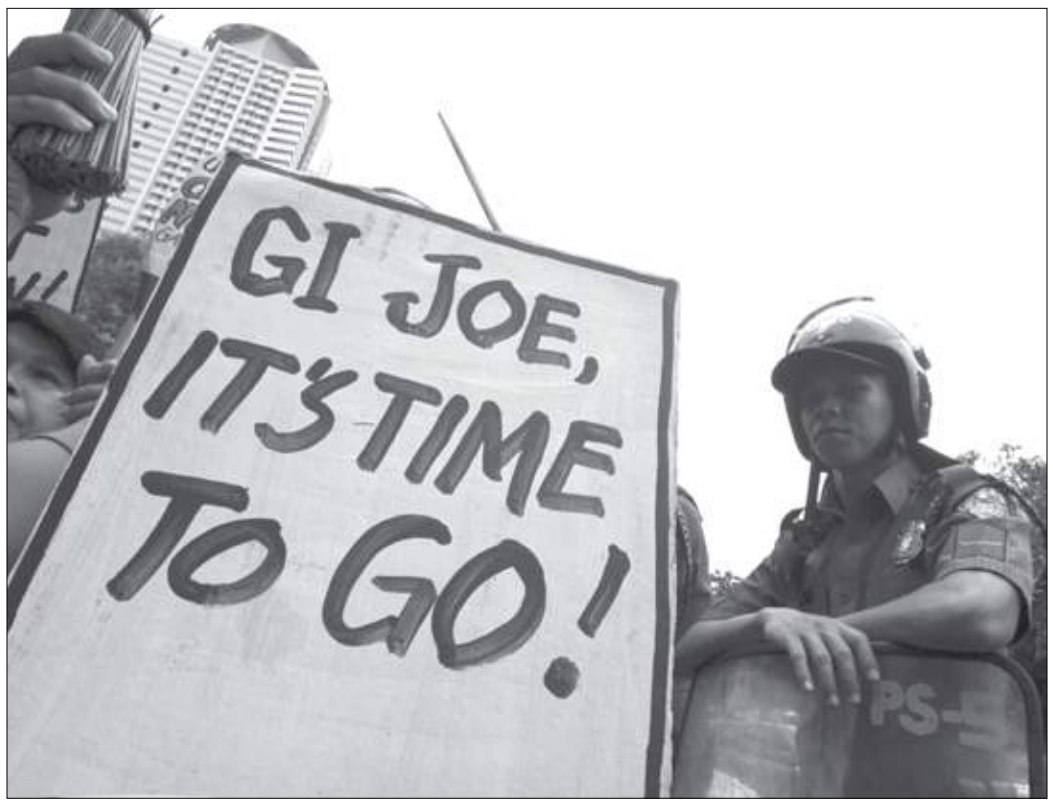
"I was wrong and I am responsible for what I did," Quynh said in her hand-written statement.

Quynh wrote that she knew her decision to stop blogging would disappoint her friends, but said she had promised to stop in order to win her freedom. "I made my promise and I will keep my promise," she wrote.

She added that she had come to the "bitter" realization that her ability to express her patriotism was constrained by political realities.

If she were as brave as the Vietnamese patriots who have come before her, Quynh said, she would have continued her blog. But after 10 days in jail, she decided to give it up.

"From the bottom of my heart, I believe we will see each other again somewhere in this immense information highway, because we share a belief in the Vietnamese spirit," said Quynh, who blogged under the pen name "Me Nam," or "Mother Mushroom."



ANTI-VFA AP

A protester displays a placard in front of riot police during a rally outside the U.S. Embassy in Manila Monday, Sept. 14, 2009 to protest the continued presence of U.S. troops in the Philippines through the Visiting Forces Agreement, or VFA. The U.S. troops are currently stationed in southern Philippines to help the Philippine military in its fight against terrorism in the wake of terrorist attacks on U.S. soil in Sept. 11, 2001.

Official: Dozens of Taliban killed after US deaths

KABUL (AP)—About 50 Taliban militants died in a battle in western Afghanistan after an insurgent ambush killed three U.S. troops, an Afghan official said Sunday.

The fighting took place in a region controlled by militants that has been the site of huge battles in the past, some that have caused high numbers of civilian casualties. In Saturday's clash, a militant-fired rocket struck a home and killed a woman and a teenage girl, Afghan police said.

The battle followed an insurgent ambush that killed three Americans and seven Afghan troops, said Afghan army spokesman Maj. Abdul Basir Ghori. The ambush involved two roadside bombs, gunfire and rocket-propelled grenades, the U.S. military said Sunday.

Fighting—which included NATO airstrikes—continued for six to eight hours after the ambush, U.S. military spokeswoman Capt. Elizabeth Mathias said. She couldn't provide casualty figures and no other Afghan officials immediately confirmed the death toll.

"The combined ISAF and Afghan force was receiving significant small-arms, RPG and indirect fire throughout that time frame," she said, referring to the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force.

Saturday's violence came the same day Afghan officials said 50 other civilians, security forces and militants were killed in a spate of attacks around Afghanistan, including 20 noncombatants killed in two roadside bomb explosions.

Violence has risen steadily across Afghanistan in the last three years, and militants now control wide swaths of the countryside.

The U.S. and NATO have a record number of troops in the country, and the top commander in Afghanistan, Gen. Stanley McChrystal, is likely to soon request thousands more. A record number of U.S. and NATO troops have died in Afghanistan already this year.

Also Sunday, an ISAF official provided more information about the rescue of a New York Times reporter from Taliban captors in Kunduz province earlier this month. Afghan journalists were angered that the British-Irish reporter was rescued but his Afghan translator died during the operation and his body was left behind.

The official said the operation was launched because there were signs that the Taliban kidnappers planned to move the two men and hand them over to higher-level insurgents.

British troops came under heavy fire as soon as their helicopters landed, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to provide details of the operation that had not been made public.

The rescuing troops brought body armor for Times reporter Stephen Farrell and for Afghan interpreter Sultan Munadi, the official said. When the British forces found Farrell, they immediately asked him where Munadi was, but Farrell said he had been killed. Because the militant gunfire was so heavy, the troops had to leave Munadi's body behind, the official said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Flights delayed by radar failure at Manila airport

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Manila's airport fixed a malfunctioning radar and brought its operations back to normal Monday after delays or cancellation of more than a dozen domestic and international flights, officials said. The radar's power supply failed Sunday and planes were barred from landing or taking off at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport for up to three hours. Two flights, one from Singapore and one from Hong Kong, were turned back. Flight delays lasted through early Monday, but the radar was fully restored at 7:10 a.m. (2310 GMT Sunday, 7:10 p.m. Sunday), airport Deputy Manager for Operations Octavio Lina said in a telephone interview. Aviation and transportation authorities were investigating the incident.

37 killed in fire at Kazakh drug rehab clinic

TALDYKORGAN, Kazakhstan (AP)—Fire roared through a drug treatment center in Kazakhstan with a history of safety violations on Sunday, killing 37 people Sunday as patients tried to escape through barred windows, officials said. The blaze broke out around 5:30 a.m. (2330 GMT, 7:30 p.m. EDT Saturday) and quickly spread through the single-story Soviet-era building. About 40 people were evacuated from the building, emergency officials said. "I heard them screaming for 20 minutes. They were screaming 'Save us, save us," said a woman who lives across the street, who gave her name only as Fatima.

Bangladesh probes marriage of teen to elderly man

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Authorities in southern Bangladesh are investigating whether a 13-year-old girl was forced to marry a 75-year-old man as a way to pay off her father's debt, local media reported Sunday. Lokman Shikder loaned the girl's father, Azhar Bepari, 4,000 takas ($59) several months ago, but Bepari had trouble repaying it, the United News of Bangladesh news agency reported. Shikder recently gave Bepari the choice of immediately paying back the money plus interest or allowing him to marry his daughter in exchange for waiving the loan, it said. Shikder, who was already married, is the father of four grown children and has a host of grandchildren, the news agency said.

World

AP Impact: Italy grapples with priest sex abuse

VERONA, Italy (AP)—It happened night after night, the deaf man said, sometimes in the priest's bedroom, sometimes in the bathroom, even in the confessional.

When he was a young boy at a Catholic-run institute for the deaf, Alessandro Vantini said, priests sodomized him so relentlessly he came to feel "as if I were dead." This year, he and dozens of other former students did something highly unusual for Italy: They went public with claims they were forced to perform sex acts with priests.

For decades, a culture of silence has surrounded priest abuse in Italy, where surveys show the church is considered one of the country's most respected institutions. Now, in the Vatican's backyard, a movement to air and root out abusive priests is slowly and fitfully taking hold.

A yearlong Associated Press tally has documented 73 cases with allegations of sexual abuse by priests against minors over the past decade in Italy, with more than 235 victims. The tally was compiled from local media reports, linked to by Web sites of victims groups and blogs. Almost all the cases have come out in the seven years since the scandal about Roman Catholic priest abuse broke in the United States.

AP

This June 29, 2009 photo shows Carlo De Gresti, spokesman of the Antonio Provolo Institute in Verona, Italy.

The numbers in Italy are still a mere trickle compared to the hundreds of cases in the court systems of the United States and Ireland. And according to the AP tally, the Italian church has so far had to pay only a few hundred thousand euros (dollars) in civil damages to the victims, compared to $2.6 billion in abuse-related costs for the American diocese or euro1.1 billion ($1.5 billion) due to victims in Ireland.

However, the numbers still stand out in a country where reports of clerical sex abuse were virtually unknown a decade ago. They point to an increasing willingness among the Italian public and—slowly—within the Vatican itself to look squarely at a tragedy where the reported cases may only just be the tip of the iceberg. The Italian church will not release the numbers of cases reported or of court settlements.

The implications of priest abuse loom large in Italy: with its 50,850 priests in a nation of 60 million, Italy counts more priests than all of South America or Africa. In the United States—where the Vatican counts 44,700 priests in a nation of 300 million—more than 4,000 Catholic clergy have been accused of molesting minors since 1950.

The Italian cases follow much the same pattern as the U.S. and Irish scandals: Italian prelates often preyed on poor, physically or mentally disabled, or drug-addicted youths entrusted to their care. The deaf students' speech impairments, for example, made the priests' admonition "never to tell" all the more easy to enforce.

In this predominantly Roman Catholic country, the church enjoys such an exalted status that the pope's pronouncements frequently top the evening news, without any critical commentary. Even those with anti-clerical views acknowledge the important role the church plays in education, social services and caring for the poor.

As a result, few dare to criticize it, including the mainstream independent and state-run media. In addition, there's a certain prudishness in small-town Italy, where one just doesn't speak about sex, much less sex between a priest and a child.

"It's a taboo on top of a taboo," said Jacqueline Monica Magi, who prosecuted several pedophilia cases in Italy before becoming a judge. "This is the provincialism of Italy."

Apollo moon rocks lost in space? No, lost on Earth

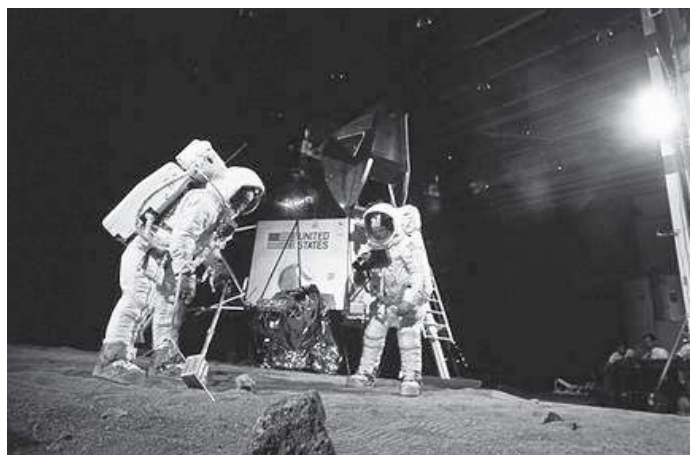
AMSTERDAM (AP)—Attention, countries of the world: Do you know where your moon rocks are?

The discovery of a fake moon rock in the Netherlands' national museum should be a wake-up call for more than 130 countries that received gifts of lunar rubble from both the Apollo 11 flight in 1969 and Apollo 17 three years later.

Nearly 270 rocks scooped up by U.S. astronauts were given to foreign countries by the Nixon administration. But according to experts and research by The Associated Press, the whereabouts of some of the small rocks are unknown.

"There is no doubt in my mind that many moon rocks are lost or stolen and now sitting in private collections," said Joseph Gutheinz, a University of Arizona instructor and former U.S. government investigator who has made a project of tracking down the lunar treasures.

The Rijksmuseum, more noted as a repository for 17th century Dutch paintings, announced last month it had had its plum-sized "moon" rock tested, only to discover it was a piece of petrified wood, possibly from Arizona. The museum said it inherited the rock from the estate of a former prime minister.



AP

In this 1969 file photo, astronauts Edwin E. Aldrin and Neil Armstrong rehearse tasks they will perform on the moon after landing in July 1969 during the Apollo 11 mission.

The real Dutch moon rocks are in a natural history museum. But the misidentification raised questions about how well countries have safeguarded their presents from Washington.

Genuine moon rocks, while worthless in mineral terms, can fetch six-figure sums from black-market collectors.

Of 135 rocks from the Apollo 17 mission given away to nations or their leaders, only about 25 have been located by CollectSpace.com, a Web site for space history buffs that has long attempted to compile a list.

That should not be taken to mean the others are lost—just that the records kept at the time are far from complete.

The AP reviewed declassified correspondence between the State Department and U.S. embassies in 1973 and was able to locate ten additional Apollo 17 rocks—in Switzerland, Belgium, Italy, Barbados, France, Poland, Norway, Costa Rica, Egypt and Nepal.

But the correspondence yielded a meager 30 leads, such as the name of the person who received them or the museum where they were to be initially displayed. Ecuador and Cyprus are among several that said they had never heard of the rocks. Five were handed to African dictators long since dead or deposed.

The outlook for tracking the estimated 134 Apollo 11 rocks is even bleaker. The locations of fewer than a dozen are known.

"NASA turned over the samples to the State Department to distribute," said Jennifer Ross-Nazzal, a NASA historian, in an e-mailed response to questions. "We don't have any records about when and to whom the rocks were given."

Thousands pay respects to Cuban revolutionary hero

HAVANA (AP)—Tens of thousands of Cubans lined up Sunday to pay their respects to Juan Almeida Bosque, a vice president and hero of the country's 1959 revolution whose death at the age of 82 further thinned the ranks of this communist-run country's old-guard leaders.

President Raul Castro led the ceremony at Havana's Revolution Square, somberly placing a pink rose in front of a large photograph of Almeida. Flags flew at half-staff throughout the country.

There was no sign of Castro's older brother, former leader Fidel Castro, who has not been seen in public since turning over power to his brother in 2006. He released a statement later Sunday, writing: "I didn't know, neither did any of us, just how much pain news of his passing would bring."

"I was a privileged witness of his exemplary conduct during more than half a century of heroic and victorious resistance," he added.

Raul Castro did not speak at the ceremony, but other Cubans filing past hailed Almeida as a great and simple man.

"We have lost a party stalwart," said Manuel Perez, a 59-year-old laborer. "He was a man of great importance in the revolutionary fight."

Osmar Orozco, a 61-year-old retiree, added that Almeida's loyalty to Fidel Castro and the revolution was "without limit."

Policeman's family killed as they slept in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP)—Gunmen killed a Kurdish policeman's wife and three young children with execution-style shots to the head Sunday as they slept in their home in the northern city of Kirkuk, where tension is building between Arabs and Kurds over land and oil.

Police Sgt. Omed Abdul-Hamid had already left for work when the gunmen burst into the house and shot the woman and children as they lay sleeping together on a mattress on the floor, police Brig. Gen. Sarhad Qadir said.

In vivid crime scene photos released by police, a 2-year-old boy could be seen lying on his back to the right of his mother with his head on a pillow, his face caked with blood where he had been shot. The boy's two sisters, ages 6 and 9, lay to the left of their mother; all three were face down and shot in the back of the head.

At the house later in the day, Abdul-Hamid sat by his doorway weeping, unable to talk.

U.S. commanders have warned that insurgents are trying to exploit tension in Kirkuk and elsewhere in Iraq's north between Arabs and Kurds. The potential for conflict between them over land and oil poses a greater long-term threat to Iraq's stability than the Sunni-Shiite conflict that nearly plunged the country into civil war in 2006 and 2007, U.S. and Iraqi officials say.

Son of late Israeli astronaut dies in plane crash

JERUSALEM (AP)—The son of an Israeli astronaut who died in the space shuttle Columbia disaster six years ago was killed Sunday when his F-16 warplane crashed on a routine training flight, the Israeli military said.

The military identified the dead pilot as Capt. Asaf Ramon, son of Ilan Ramon, Israel's first and only astronaut. One of seven crew members killed when the Columbia exploded as it re-entered the atmosphere in 2003, Ilan Ramon is seen as a national hero in Israel, and radio and TV stations broke into their broadcasts Sunday to report the news of his son's death.

The crash elicited emotional responses from Israeli leaders. The military chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi, arrived at the family's home along with the air force commander after news of the crash was made public, and the country's defense minister, Ehud Barak, said he was "heartbroken."

"It is a sad and painful day," Barak told reporters.

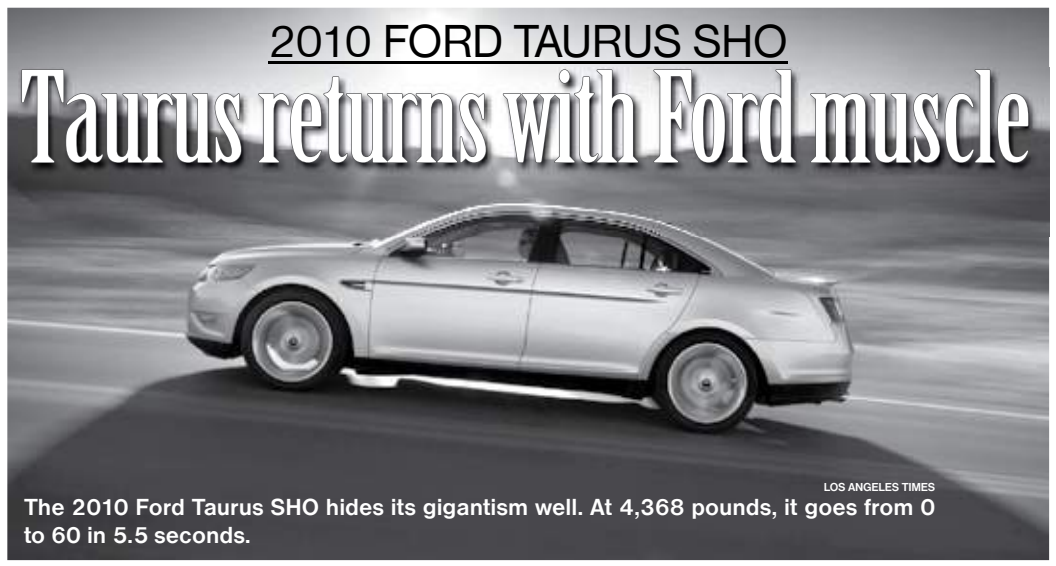
Ramon's fighter jet crashed south of the West Bank city of Hebron. Dan Kapach, a security officer at a nearby Israeli settlement, described a "huge explosion."

Overdrive

2010 FORD TAURUS SHO

Taurus returns with Ford muscle

BY DAN NEIL
LOS ANGELES TIMES



LOS ANGELES TIMES
The 2010 Ford Taurus SHO hides its gigantism well. At 4,368 pounds, it goes from 0 to 60 in 5.5 seconds.

At the moment, my brain aches. Actually, I think I might have strained something, pulled a mental muscle as I attempted to heft the idea of a $45,165, 4,368-pound, 365-hp, six-speed, twin-turbo, all-wheel-drive Ford Taurus.

The former sad sack of the rental car universe has gotten a muscle car makeover. It's fast. It's well-built. It looks great.

Behold, and tremble before the new Ford Taurus, which is just plain big in any direction you care to measure. Displaced from the midsize sedan segment by its smaller sibling Fusion—which now competes with Taurus' erstwhile rivals Honda Accord and Toyota Camry—and expanding to fill the shoes of the Crown Victoria (consigned to fleet sales only), the new Ford Taurus looks as if it's been swimming in pituitary juices: 202.9 inches long, 76.2 inches wide and 60.7 inches tall on a 112.9-inch wheelbase, dwarfing its head-to-head competition, Toyota Avalon and Buick LaCrosse.

The new Taurus is, in other words, bigger than a standard-wheelbase BMW 7-series, which requires all the steel of the Ruhr Valley to build. These dimensions are draped over relatively conventional sedan proportions. This leads to a wonderfully weird optical illusion: As you approach the Taurus it seems to get bigger and bigger and bigger until you feel like you're looking up at it, agog.

To the everlasting credit of Taurus exterior design manager Earl Lucas, the sedan actually disguises it gigantism quite well. This is a handsome car with muscular roped-over shoulders and flanks, tasteful blood vents along the doors, a short kicked-up deck and powerfully stern visage.

The rental-car special is the front-drive Taurus SE, powered by a 3.5-liter, 263-hp V6, starting at $25,995; the SEL model is $27,995 (add $2,000 for all-wheel drive). The value leader is the generously equipped Limited ($31,995, or $33,995 for AWD), and finally, what Ford insouciantly calls its "flagship," the SHO, at $37,995 and totally loaded at $45,165. This car—with twin-turbo V6, standard AWD, 5.5-second 0-to-60-mph acceleration, and optional 20-inch wheels—was the model I drove, and when I wasn't grappling with the laws of physics for my very survival, I rather liked it.

The chassis guys have done their part. In big, lurid curves, the SHO corners flat and level—no ugly weight transfer, no door-dragging body roll. The electric power-assist steering is calibrated to be taut and heavy—too heavy for some tastes, I'm sure. The car's handling is characterized by one word: understeer. Three words? Lots of it. My test car was equipped with the 20-inch all-season Michelins, and they didn't offer nearly enough front grip to pivot this 2.2-ton dreadnought. The Ford guys say the Track package tires provide a lot more grip.

Driven at saner speeds, the Taurus SHO feels tremendous. Heavy and stiff and durable, like a new catcher's mitt. The interior is quiet—maybe, as they say in Westerns, too quiet. I would have liked a little more snarl inside the cabin. The SHO's interior aesthetics—cross-hatched alloy, suede-leather inserts, black console fascia, thick soft-touch polyurethane—read as sporty, tough and cool-looking. I'm not so crazy about the interior in the lower trim level cars.

Into this big boat Ford has thrown the kitchen sink and, indeed, every other porcelain fixture. Among the many standard and optional tech features: adaptive cruise control, blind-spot detection with "cross-traffic alert" (helping drivers pull out of spaces with limited rear visibility), multicontour sport seats, voice-activated nav with Ford's Sync travel service, Sony surround-sound stereo, automatic high beams, rain-sensing wipers, power sunshade. Thus do you build a $45,165 Taurus.

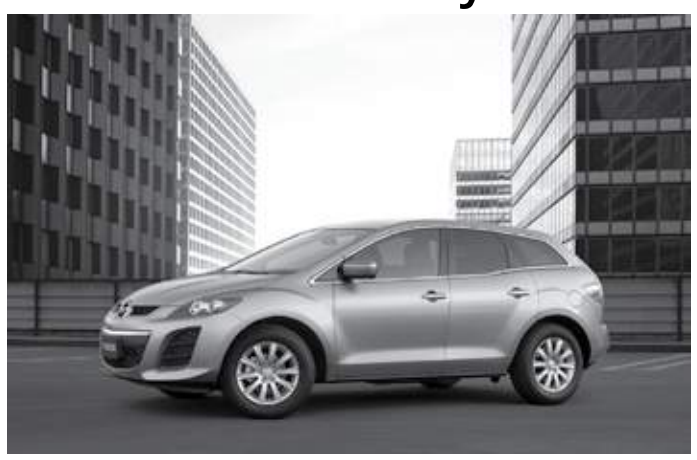
NUTS & BOLTS

Base price: $37,995
Price as tested: $45,165 (est.)
Powertrain: Twin-turbocharged 3.5-liter DOHC V-6; six-speed automatic transmission with manual-shift mode; all-wheel drive
Horsepower: 365 at 5,500 rpm
Torque: 350 pound-feet at 1,500 to 5,000 rpm
Curb weight: 4,368 pounds
0-60 mph: 5.5 seconds (est.)
Wheelbase: 112.9 inches
Overall length: 202.9 inches
EPA fuel economy: 17 mpg city, 25 mpg highway, 20 mpg combined
Final thoughts: Amtrak without the tracks.

2010 MAZDA CX-7 SPORT

These four cylinders have what you need

By WARREN BROWN
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST



THE WASHINGTON POST
The 2010 Mazda CX-7 crossover utility wagon gets a lot of pep from its four-cylinder engine. It's surprisingly fun to drive, the author says.

CORNWALL, N.Y.—Choices need not be onerous. The penalty for saving fuel should not be permanent consignment to the right lanes of the nation's highways, reckless endangerment in emergency maneuvers or incompetence in the matter of transporting luggage.

Conversely, the power to run in America's left lanes, to compete with agility on the nation's highways or to motor up Mine Hill Road here weighted with a summer's worth of baggage should not require the guzzling of fuel and spewing of wastes—and all that means for lungs and pocketbooks.

We can't have everything we want. But we can get much of what we need through the judicious engineering and application of four-cylinder engines, such as the 2.5-liter, 161-horsepower job installed in the 2010 Mazda CX-7 Sport crossover-utility vehicle.

On a journey of 1,500 miles, including a week-long tour here, that little engine delivered. On Interstate 95 and the New Jersey Turnpike, around foothills, up and down mountain roads, it performed like a champion—producing acceleration and torque as needed without whimper or whine.

I worried that I might get otherwise.

Previous experience with several gasoline-powered, four-cylinder engines was less than satisfactory. Four-cylinder Kia and Hyundai models groaned so bitterly, especially on uphill runs, that I was tempted to park, get out and walk.

A Chevrolet Cobalt coupe, equipped with a 2.2-liter, 155-horsepower, four-cylinder engine and four-speed automatic transmission, ran like aces in the flatlands, turning in commendable performances in acceleration and handling. But Cobalt whined loudly when ascending the steep Mine Hill Road.

By comparison, the Mazda CX-7's little engine joins my list of "Yes, I Can" Four-Bangers, including engines in the Honda Civic and Fit, Ford Focus, Subaru Outback, and the Volkswagen Jetta SportWagen TDI (a 2-liter, turbocharged diesel model).

For the record, the Jetta SportWagen TDI engine still sits atop my list of favored four-cylinder models, especially for motoring around these parts. It delivers a maximum 140 horsepower. But its real strength is its torque—engine twisting power key to pulling loads and scrambling uphill—a maximum 236 foot-pounds at 1,750 revolutions per minute. The kicker: The engine in the SportWagen Jetta TDI delivers that power along with 35 miles per gallon on highway runs!

The Mazda CX-7's four-cylinder engine runs on regular unleaded gasoline unassisted by turbocharging—using exhaust gases to power an impeller to pull more fresh air into an engine and, thus, boost power. But it's no slouch.

Pushing the CX-7's gas pedal yields substantially more speed than anxiety. Response is immediate, precise. That builds confidence, which provides peace of mind behind the wheel, especially on a long drive.

Also appreciated are infrequent fueling stops. The CX-7's four-cylinder engine delivers 31 mpg on highway runs.

Good, strong four-cylinder engines, especially advanced diesel models, probably could do more to reduce our crippling dependence on foreign oil than electric cars and other alternative propulsion technologies. They are more affordable and, thus, potentially more widely available than electrics.

The problem is that four-cylinder vehicles have long had an image problem—cheap, not sexy, that sort of thing. But Mazda has proved otherwise with its 2.5-liter, 161-horsepower CX-7 Sport. It can take you wherever you want to go, with speed, chutzpah and style, without driving you to the poor house.

NUTS & BOLTS

By WARREN BROWN
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

THE BOTTOM LINE
American consumers need to change their long-standing, generally unfavorable perception of four-cylinder engines. Well-engineered four-cylinder models can save fuel, reduce air pollution and be fun to drive.

COMPLAINT
Those fabric-covered seats! Sorry, Mazda. But the synthetic seat material used in the CX-7 Sport driven for this column is barely north of dingy. It collects lint, crumbs and dust. It would be better on a mop than a car seat.

RIDE, ACCELERATION AND HANDLING
Excellent marks in all three categories. This one is surprisingly fun to drive.

BODY STYLE/LAYOUT
The Mazda CX-7 Sport is a compact, front-engine, four-door crossover utility vehicle (wagon) with a rear hatch. It is available with front-wheel-drive or all-wheel-drive in four basic iterations — SV, Sport, Touring and Grand Touring.

ENGINE/TRANSMISSIONS
The CX-7 Sport driven for this column was equipped with a 2.5-liter, 16-valve inline four-cylinder engine that develops 161 horsepower at 6,000 revolutions per minute and 161 foot-pounds of torque at 3,500 revolutions per minute. The engine was mated to a five-speed transmission that could be shifted automatically or manually.

CAPACITIES
There are seats for five people. Luggage capacity with rear seats up is 29.9 cubic feet. With rear seats folded, it's 59 cubic feet. The CX-7 Sport can be equipped to tow up to 1,500 pounds. Fuel capacity is 16.4 gallons.

MILEAGE
It's 20 mpg city and 31 mpg highway.

SAFETY
Standard equipment includes front- and rear-ventilated disc brakes, four-wheel antilock brake protection, electronic stability and traction control, side and head air bags. Note: This column strongly recommends four-wheel disc brakes, as opposed to front-discs/rear drums, as the best braking package.

PRICE
The base price on the 2010 Mazda CX-7 Sport is $22,340. Dealer's invoice price on that model is $21,271. Price as tested is $25,445 including $2,355 in options (rearview camera, power glass roof, heated front seats, satellite radio and other items) and a $750 destination charge. Dealer's price as tested is $24,054. Check for rebates. Prices are sourced from Mazda, Edmunds.com, and Cars.com, an affiliate of *The Washington Post*.

PURSE-STRINGS NOTE
Compare with 2010 Chevrolet Equinox, Honda CR-V, Nissan Rogue, Toyota Rav4, Volkswagen SportWagen TDI.

Life & Style

Kanye West apologizes for Swift outburst at VMAs

By NEKESA MUMBI MOODY
AP MUSIC WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Kanye West apologized for yet another outburst at the MTV Video Music Awards, this time directed at country-pop sweetheart Taylor Swift. The disruption upstaged not just Swift's awards speech, but the entire evening, including an emotional tribute to Michael Jackson.

In a rare conciliatory moment, West took to his blog to apologize. In a standard all-caps message, West said: "I'M SOOOOO SORRY TO TAYLOR SWIFT AND HER FANS AND HER MOM. I SPOKE TO HER MOTHER RIGHT AFTER AND SHE SAID THE SAME THING MY MOTHER WOULD'VE SAID. SHE IS VERY TALENTED!"

West—who has flipped out after losing at the VMAs, the Grammys, the American Music Awards and more—once again took umbrage when the awards process didn't go the way he wanted it to—but this time, it was on behalf of Beyonce.

Beyonce, nominated for best female video for "Single Ladies," was bested by Swift, the best-selling artist of the year outside of Jackson. The 19-year-old was giddy when she won for her clip "You Belong With Me," the first award given out Sunday, and said: "I always wondered what it would be like to maybe win one of these someday, but never actually thought it would happen."

But West ruined her moment when he jumped on stage at Radio City Music Hall.

"Taylor, I'm really happy for you, and I'm gonna let you finish, but Beyonce had one of the best videos of all time," said West, as a shocked Beyonce looked on and the crowd began to boo.

A crestfallen Swift didn't finish her speech, but the crowd applauded her anyway. She later performed "You Belong With Me" in a subway station.

Swift later got a speech do-over, courtesy of Beyonce, who won video of the year for "Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It)." Beyonce recalled that she won her first VMA at age 17, as a member of Destiny's Child.

"I remember how excited I was," she said. "I'd like Taylor to come out and have her moment."

A smiling but nervous Swift then said, "Can we try this again?" before going on to thank everyone she would have thanked had West not interrupted her.

Later, backstage, Swift said she had never met West and had been a fan. She declined to get into a verbal tussle with West: "I don't know him and I don't want to start anything."

Instead, she praised Beyonce for giving her the stage: "I thought that I couldn't love Beyonce more and then tonight happened and it was just wonderful."

The celebrity crowd was unforgiving of West. When Diddy read his name later in the show while introducing the nominees for best male video, the crowd booed, and Diddy said in mock surprise, "What happened?" The crowd responded by chanting Swift's name (T.I. ended up winning the award). They also booed his name later.

West also addressed that, too, on his blog: "BEYONCE'S VIDEO WAS THE BEST OF THIS DECADE!!!! ... EVERYBODY WANNA BOOOOO ME BUT I'M A FAN OF REAL POP CULTURE!!! NO DISRESPECT BUT WE WATCHIN' THE SHOW AT THE CRIB RIGHT NOW CAUSE ... WELL YOU KNOW!!!! I'M STILL HAPPY FOR TAYLOR!!!! "

The incident provided the VMAs with its traditional wa-tercooler moment, but also completely overshadowed what had been expected to be the show's main attraction—a poignant, tender tribute to Michael Jackson by Madonna and sister Janet.

Madonna gave a moving speech about her relationship with Jackson, which began when she was a youngster idolizing the then-child star, then morphed into a friendship when both were at the apex of their careers and later, grew distant. Madonna lamented the negative publicity that dogged him in his later years.

"Sometimes, we have to lose things before we can truly appreciate them," said Madonna, dressed in black.

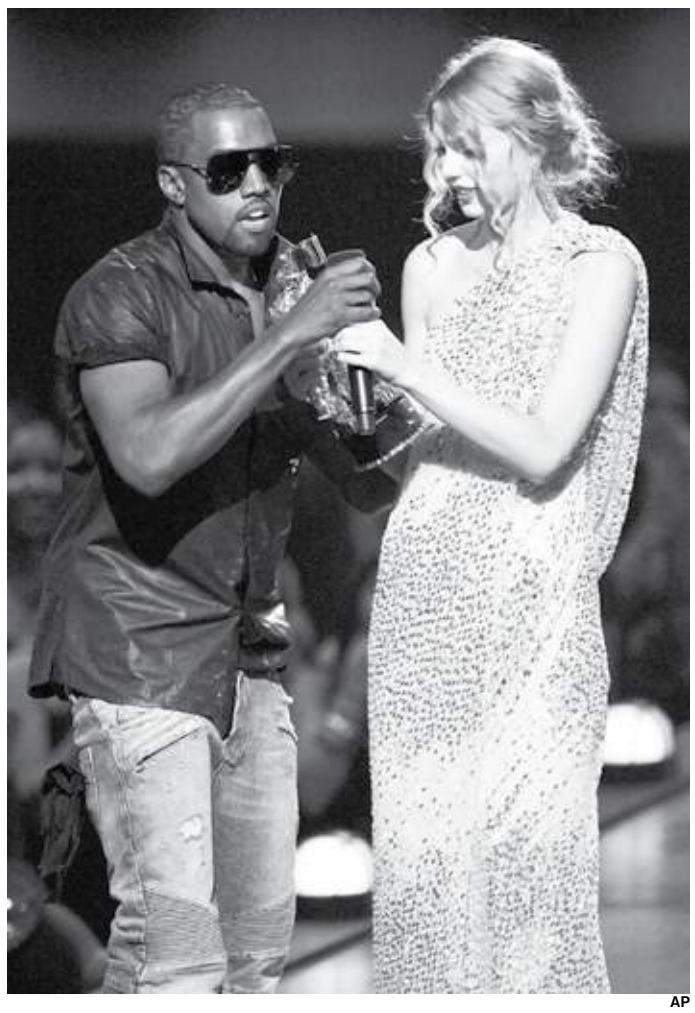
"Yes, Michael Jackson was a human being, but yes, he was a king," she told the celebrity-studded crowd, which included Michael's brother Jermaine and father Joe Jackson. "Long live the king."

See KANYE on next page

VMA WINNERS

© The Associated Press

A list of winners of the MTV Video Music Awards:
VIDEO OF THE YEAR: Beyonce, "Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It)."
BEST FEMALE VIDEO: Taylor Swift, "You Belong With Me."
BEST ROCK VIDEO: Green Day, "21 Guns."
BEST POP VIDEO: Britney Spears, "Womanizer."
BEST MALE VIDEO: T.I. featuring Rihanna, "Live Your Life."
BEST HIP-HOP VIDEO: Eminem, "We Made You."
BEST NEW ARTIST: Lady Gaga.
BEST VIDEO THAT SHOULD HAVE WON A MOONMAN: Beastie Boys, "Sabotage."
BEST BREAKTHROUGH VIDEO: Matt and Kim, "Lessons Learned."



AP

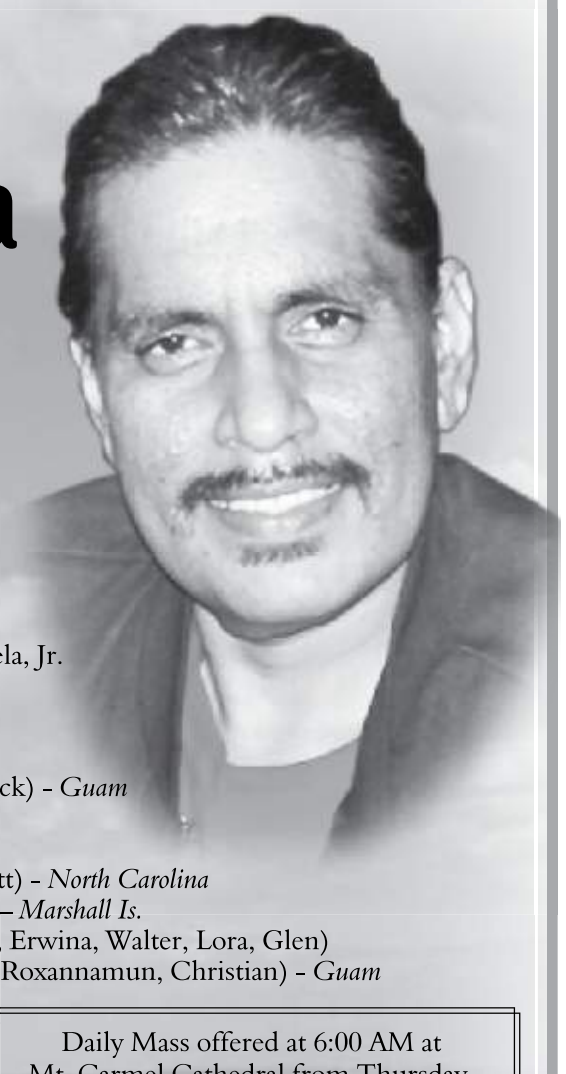
Singer Kanye West takes the microphone from singer Taylor Swift as she accepts the "Best Female Video" award during the MTV Video Music Awards on Sunday, Sept. 13, 2009 in New York.

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

In Loving Memory of

†**Henry Dakano Tudela**

Born to Life on December 17, 1974
Called to Eternal Life on September 9, 2009



His memories will forever remain in the hearts of his:

Wife: Carmen Anne Barcinas Sablan-Tudela
Parents: Francisco DLG. Tudela (BEYA)
†Relina Dakano Tudela

Parents-In-Law: George Ayuyu Sablan (KAPPON)
Dolores Barcinas Sablan (PITU)

Children: Jordan Xavier Ilo & Henry Jonah Ilo Tudela, Jr.

Grandmother-In-Law: Ana Mendiola Ayuyu Sablan

Brothers and Sisters:
Ricky & Clarissa Tudela (Relita, Kaelene, Ricky Jr., Kendrick) - *Guam*
Francine D. Tudela & Murphy Paul
Joseph D. Tudela - *Washington*
Helen T. & Steve Eavenson (William Moses, Barbara, Scott) - *North Carolina*
Stephen & Noshi Lepton (Ernest, Dianna, Rianna, David) – *Marshall Is.*
Emlok L. & Allan Zacharias (Jolina Lepton, Roslyn, Carrie, Erwina, Walter, Lora, Glen)
Betty & Rickson Hadley (Darrel, Vanessa, Treamma, Bob, Roxannamun, Christian) - *Guam*

Brother and Sisters-In-Law:
George B. Sablan, Jr. - *Hawaii*
Dora Lynn B. Sablan and Rodney Tenorio - *Nevada*
Agnes Cecile B. Sablan (Noah Cedric) - *Hawaii*
Caroline Marie B. Sablan – *Hawaii*

In his new life, he now joins his:

Mother: †Relina Dakano Tudela

Paternal Grandparents: †Enrique Ramirez Tudela
†Maria Sablan DLG. (Songao) Tudela

Maternal Grandparents: †Jorim Matu Dakano
†Eleka Welles Dakano

Grandparents-In-Law: †Herman Atalig Sablan
†Domingo Blanco Barcinas
†Carmen DLG. Sablan Barcinas

Daily Mass offered at 6:00 AM at Mt. Carmel Cathedral from Thursday, September 10, 2009 through Thursday, September 17, 2009.

There will be viewing at the Nuestra Seniora Dela Paz Memorial Chapel on Thursday, September 17, 2009 from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM.

On Friday, September 18, 2009, his remains will be escorted from the Nuestra Seniora Dela Paz Memorial Chapel to Santa Soledad Church, Kagman at 7:30 AM. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:00 AM followed by the interment service at Sanctuario Pax Memorial Gardens, Kagman.

Thank You and Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

Carmen Anne Barcinas Sablan Tudela & Children
Francisco DLG Tudela, Children & Family

Israeli film on '82 Lebanon war wins Venice prize

VENICE, Italy (AP)—"Lebanon," an Israeli film that recounts Israel's 1982 invasion of the Middle East country through the eyes of four soldiers in a tank, won the top prize at the Venice Film Festival on Saturday.

The festival jury announced the Golden Lion and other prizes on the last day of the 11-day screening of films from around the world. An Iranian film about women and repression took the No. 2 prize, the Silver Lion.

"Lebanon," directed by Samuel Maoz, tells the story of Israeli paratroopers searching a hostile town. The conflict is seen through the binocular-aided eyes of those inside a tank, with their cramped quarters lending an anxious sense of claustrophobia to their viewpoint.

"I dedicate this work to people all over the world that come back from the war safe and sound," the director told the audience at the award ceremony. "They work, get married, have children," but the memories get "stuck in their souls."

Maoz was a young man when he served in the Israeli military during the invasion, which led to a long occupation of southern Lebanon.

Variety has described the film, one of 25 which competed for the Golden Lion, as the "boldest and best of the recent mini-wave" of Israeli movies. The awards jury was headed by Ang Lee, himself a Golden Lion-winning director, who marveled that if "Lebanon" was Maoz's first film what might he do next.

He said the jurors were both quick and unanimous in choosing "Lebanon" and were "happy not be inside that tank which could have been any tank in any war."

Maoz told Israeli Channel 1 TV in a phone interview immediately after winning that he hoped the film "helps people understand our country better, understand our society better, and the complexity of our society better."

The jury seemed to wade straight into conflicted parts of the world.

Iranian filmmaker and photographer Shirin Neshat snared the Silver Lion for best director for her feature debut with "Zanan Bedoone Mardan" ("Women Without Men").

The film depicts four women from all classes of society in 1953 Iran, on the eve of an American-aided uprising that deposed an elected government that had nationalized the oil industry, and leading to the return of the shah.

But Neshat said the film aimed at providing encouragement to democracy-loving people in her country a half century after the events in the film.

The movie is about "the courage of the women and the people of Iran to take their lives into their own hands," she said after winning the Silver Lion, the festival's No. 2 prize.

"I knew when I was making the film, I was taking a risk. I knew nothing about cinema." But she added, "I took a risk so the fundamental message is about courage. There is a great value in that struggle and we must fight to evolve as a society and as women."

The Italian news agency Apcom quoted her as adding: "I hope that the people are given what they need—peace and democracy."

A comedy, "Soul Kitchen," by German-Turkish director Fatih Akin, won the Special Jury Prize. The film represented a departure from the more serious tones set in Akin's 2004 Berlin Golden Bear winner "Head On" and 2007's "The Edge of Heaven," which won the screenplay award at the Cannes film festival.

Colin Firth took best actor award for his role in Tom Ford's "A Single Man" as a college professor grappling with solitude after his longtime partner dies. Fashion designer Tom Ford made his director's debut with the movie. Ksenia Rappoport, starring in the Italian film "La Doppia Ora," won best actress honors.

KANYE

From Page 18

The musical tribute began afterward, as Jackson clones dressed in some of his signature outfits recreated his famous dance moves from his videos.

Then, as "Scream," his duet with Janet, appeared on a large screen, his sister came out to recreate the moves from their only video together as the crowd, including Beyonce, cheered her on. Afterward, she looked heavenward, and bowed.

Jackson died June 25 at age 50. Jackson was not only an integral part of MTV's history, he also provided the VMAs with some of its most memorable moments, including his infamous smooch with then-wife Lisa Marie Presley, in 1994.

The night had its surreal moments. Lady Gaga—who arrived at the show wearing a gold mask right out of "Phantom of the Opera" and with Kermit the Frog as her date—gave a typically eccentric performance of her song "Paparazzi." It started off with Lady Gaga dressed in white, on the floor, and seemed to recall Madonna's famous VMA wedding-dress performance. But it soon morphed into bizarre imagery that included a bedazzled wheelchair, Lady Gaga dancing with a crutch, and ended with her hanging as fake blood drenched her torso.

Later, when she won the award for best new artist, she accepted it draped in red lace from head to toe—literally, as the lace covered her face. She ripped the lace from her face during her profanity-laden speech, which she ended by saying, "Thank you for God and for the gays."

The night's best performance may have come courtesy of Pink, who delivered a high-flying version of her song "Sober" with an acrobatic, trapeze act that had her dangling from the rafters.

And the night didn't just focus on music: Robert Pattinson, Kristen Stewart and Taylor Lautner, the stars of the vampire film "Twilight," presented an extended trailer from the movie's sequel, "New Moon."

A Jackson moment ended the night, however. The VMAs aired the full trailer for "This Is It," the documentary about Jackson's preparations for his comeback concerts that were to be held in London. The trailer included new footage of Jackson performing his signature moves. The film is due to come out in October.

Florida's Disney World to get Fantasyland facelift

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Disney executives are planning the largest expansion in the history of Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom in central Florida.

The development will nearly double the size of Fantasyland and include a new, lavish ride based on the Little Mermaid. Walt Disney Parks and Resorts Chairman Jay Rasulo made the announcement Saturday.

Analysts predict it will re-ignite travel to Orlando, which has lagged in the global recession.

Disney also plans to update Star Tours, the Star Wars-themed ride in Disney's Hollywood Studios. It will debut in 2011. The Fantasyland overhaul will be complete by 2013. Disney declined to say how much it will spend on the projects.

Disney's parks contribute about a third of the giant entertainment company's revenue.

IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE

Victoria Santos Borja Aguon

July 8, 1951 — September 11, 2009

In her new life, she now joins her:

Father: Daniel Tudela Borja
Mother: Joaquina Sablan Santos Borja
Father-In-Law: Juan Borja Aguon
Mother-In-Law: Maria Cruz Aguon
Daughter: Victoria Borja Aguon
Grandson: Jose Borja
Brothers and Sister-In-Law: David C. and Winnifrieda T. Aguon
Jesse James C. Aguon
Leticia C. Borja

She is survived by her:

Husband: Juan Cruz Aguon
Children: Frances Borja and Oscar Pangelinan (*Nathaniel, Dustin Jon, Oscar, Jr.*)
Joaquina Borja Aguon and Isidoro Cabrera (*Toriana Lourdes*)
John Vincent Borja Aguon and Yvonne Demello
Reared Daughters: Victoria M. and Brainard Jones
Bernadine B. Montague
Reared Son: Lianny C. Pangelinan
Reared Grandchild: Devin Calvo Santos
Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws: Vicente S. Borja and children
Jose S. & Nancy Borja and children
Juan S. & Nicolasa B. Borja and children
Maria B. & Jose H. Salas and children
Ines B. & Thomas Castro and children
Daniel S. Borja, Jr.
Roman S. & Anita A. Borja and children
Brothers and Sisters and In-Laws: Helen A. & David Chellis and children
Ricardo C. & Mikella Aguon and children
Joseph C. & Helen Aguon and children
Catalina A. & Pete Salamone and children
Edward C. & Magdalena DLG. Aguon and children
Bernadita C. Aguon
Francisca C. Aguon and children
Margarita A. and Kenneth Deleon Guerrero and children

Special Sisters: Cecilia Camacho Pangelinan and Tita Hocog

Family Friends: Bernie Montague and Nida Bragado

She is additionally survived by numerous Aunts, Uncles, Godchildren, Nieces, Nephews, Cousins and Friends.

Daily morning mass is being offered at 6 a.m. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and evening Mass at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday at the Kristo Rai Church. Nightly Rosary is being prayed at 7:00 p.m. at Kristo Rai Church.

On Friday, September 18, 2009, there will be a viewing at the Borja Funeral Home after the rosary.

On Saturday, September 19, 2009, the departed will be taken from the Borja Funeral Home at 7:00 a.m. to Kristo Rai Church and Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:00 a.m.

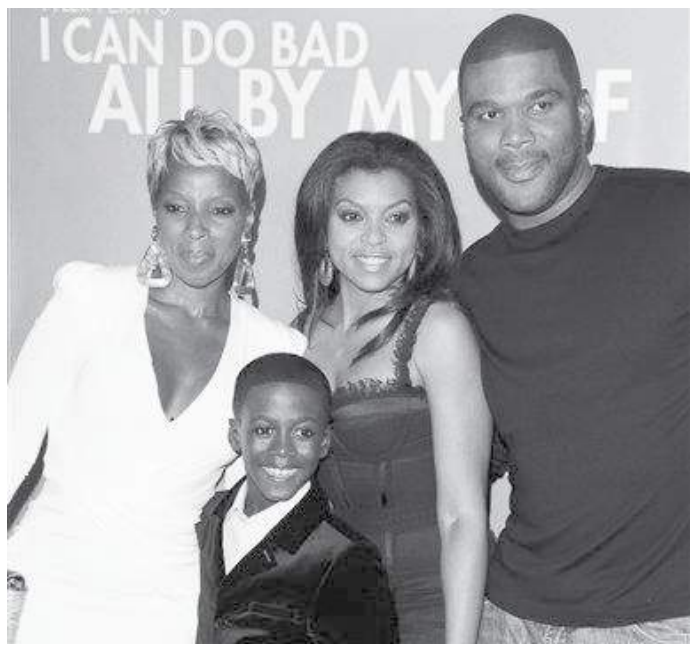
Interment Service will follow at her residence in As Teo.

Tyler Perry has good opening with 'Bad'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Being bad is good for Tyler Perry, whose latest movie, "I Can Do Bad All By Myself," opened at the top of the box office this weekend with more than $24 million.

The Lionsgate comedy stars Oscar nominee Taraji P. Henson ("The Curious Case of Benjamin Button") as a hard-drinking nightclub singer forced to care for her delinquent niece and nephews. Besides directing and writing the film, based on his stage play of the same name, Perry co-stars as his brash, cross-dressing alter ego, Madea.

It's Perry's second film this year to open at No. 1. In February, "Tyler Perry's Madea Goes to Jail" debuted at the top spot with $41 million, which stands as the biggest opening of his eight films.



AP

From lefFrom left to right, singer Mary J. Blige, actors Kwesi Boakye, Taraji P. Henson and Director Tyler Perry attend the premiere of Tyler Perry's "I Can Do Bad All By Myself", in New York, on Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2009.

"Tyler Perry has a special way of speaking to his audience, and it's unbelievable," David Spitz, Lionsgate's executive vice president and general sales manager, said Sunday. "He always knows what his audience wants, and I never underestimate him."

Spitz said the presence of the popular Madea character, plus a cast that included Henson, Mary J. Blige, Gladys Knight and Pastor Marvin Winans, helped put the movie on top. It also had the best critical reception of all of Perry's films, with 58 percent positive reviews on the Rotten Tomatoes Web site.

Perry, who's known for his productivity, has the sequel "Why Did I Get Married Too" coming out next spring. And in a rare adaptation of someone else's work, he's preparing to go into production on a film version of the Ntozake Shange stage play "For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf."

Hollywood.com box-office analyst Paul Dergarabedian joked that his latest movie should have been called, "Tyler Perry's I Can Do No Wrong at the Box Office."

"Eight theatrical films, five No. 1 debuts—Lionsgate has a perpetually successful franchise in Tyler Perry," Dergarabedian said. "He is the brand. He's a very rare example of a director-writer-actor who is completely synonymous with his work and with the success of his movies."

Coming in second was the dark, animated "9" from Focus Features, which made $10.9 million this weekend, according to Sunday estimates. Since its Wednesday opening—on 9-9-09—the movie has made about $15.3 million. The voice cast includes Elijah Wood, John C. Reilly, Christopher Plummer and Jennifer Connelly as hand-stitched dolls who represent the last vestige of humanity after a war between man and machine.

In what is traditionally a slow time at the box office between the summer blockbusters and the fall prestige films, two other new releases had so-so openings. The Summit Entertainment horror flick "Sorority Row" came in at No. 6 with about $5.3 million, while the Kate Beckinsale thriller "Whiteout" from Warner Bros. followed in seventh place with $5.1 million.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Final figures will be released Tuesday.

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Whiteout

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon thru Thurs		4:00	7:00	

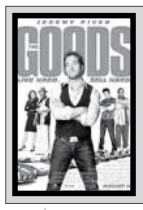
Kate Beckinsale, Gabriel Macht
Action, Thriller, Crime • Rated R

Synopsis
Carrie Stetko, the lone U.S. Marshal assigned to Antarctica, is investigating the continent's first murder, which draws her into a shocking mystery. Now, with only three days until winter, Carrie must solve the crime before Antarctica is plunged into darkness and she is stranded with the killer.

Sorority Row

Friday		4:05	7:10	9:50
Saturday	1:10	4:05	7:10	9:50
Sunday	1:10	4:05	7:10	
Mon thru Thurs		4:05	7:10	

Briana Evigan, Leah Pipes
Thriller, Horror, Remake • Rated R



The Goods: Live Hard, Sell Hard

Friday		4:20	7:15	9:55
Saturday	1:25	4:20	7:15	9:55
Sunday	1:25	4:20	7:15	
Mon thru Thurs		4:20	7:15	

Jeremy Piven, Ving Rhames
Comedy • Rated R

★ ★ ★

Gamer

Friday		4:15	7:30	9:45
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:30	9:45
Sunnday	1:15	4:15	7:30	
Mon thru Thurs		4:15	7:30	

Gerald Butler, Amber Valletta
Action, Thriller • Rated R

Synopsis
Set in the near future, a time when mind-control technology has taken society by storm. Humans control other humans in a mass-scale, multiplayer online game. Redusive billionaire Ken Castle has created the controversial form of entertainment, "Slayers," a hugely popular game that allows millions to act out their innermost desires and fantasies–online–in front of a global audience. Gaming has evolved into a terrifying new dimension-mind control-manipulation-people playing people. At the center is Kable, the superstar and cult hero of "Slayers," the savage, ultra-violent first person shooter game.

Final Destination 4

Friday		4:25	7:20	9:30
Saturday	1:30	4:25	7:20	9:30
Sunday	1:30	4:25	7:20	
Mon thru Thurs		4:25	7:20	

Bobby Campo, Shantel VanSanten
Supernatural • Rated R

The Time Traveler's Wife

Friday			7:05	9:35
Saturday			7:05	9:35
Sunday			7:05	
Mon thru Thurs			7:05	

Rachel McAdams, Eric Bana
Drama, Romance, Sci-Fi • Rated PG 13

Shorts

Friday		4:10		
Saturday	1:05	4:10		
Sunday	1:05	4:10		
Mon thru Thurs		4:10		

Jimmy Bennett, Jake Short
Children • Rated PG

G.I. JOE

Friday		4:30	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:20	4:30	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:20	4:30	7:25	
Mon thru Thurs		4:30	7:25	

Dennis Quaid, Channing Tatum
War • Rated PG 13

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Victoria Beckham: from celebrity to NY couturier

By SAMANTHA CRITCHELL
AP FASHION WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Victoria Beckham knows fashion, not just how to wear it or how to buy it but also how to make it—and that's pretty impressive.

Beckham could have staged one flashy New York Fashion Week show previewing her spring collection of dresses, which would surely be a hot ticket no matter what was on the runway. But the style star and wife of soccer player David Beckham chose to personally show her line about a dozen times Sunday to small groups of editors and retailers, explaining the construction of each piece and what she liked about it.

It was an old-fashioned couturier's presentation held in a spare art gallery, with only bowls of roses as decoration.

"This is my third collection, and I wanted to push myself, but I also wanted to be respectful of my customer," she said. "I want her to know she can rely on me."

Instead of switching gears each season to meet the trends, as many designers do, Beckham has focused on a few key silhouettes, some of which are new, and some tweaks of dresses that have already been successful.

Her signature fitted dress now has a lower neckline, stronger shoulders and capped sleeves; the fold-front dress has a shorter hemline just above the knee. There are corsets—sometimes fitted, sometimes not—build into the garments. Several dresses also feature banding, which is emerging as a trend during Fashion Week.

A flared-skirt dress, still with a very slim bodice, is something a little different, Beckham said, and she hopes it will be a permanent addition.

AP

In this photo released by Dan Lecca is shown a model wearing a Victoria Beckham dress, shown at an art gallery space as part of New York Fashion Week in New York, on Sunday, Sept. 13, 2009.

"The tight bodice holds you in, which is never a bad thing," she said.

Lace is new to the collection, but erase any images of anything too delicate.

"This is my way of doing lace," she declared, explaining that the spider web effect is a result of sewing together the pieces with very fine ribbon.

Although she called a black, textured gazar dress with a little sheen and a sexy zip front one of her favorites, she chose to wear a long-sleeve, strong-shoulder black dress with a peplum. She said, somewhat amazingly, that she second-guessed wearing the same outfit as a model because models have such slim figures—as if she didn't.

(In reality, you do have to look like a model—or Beckham—to wear any of these garments.)

Beckham will soon wear a rose-colored tower gown with black bands on the bodice to a big event.

"It will clash with the red carpet," she said with a laugh.

"I try on everything," she added. "I make the dresses for me."

Elton John wants to adopt Ukrainian toddler

LONDON (AP)—Look out, Madonna and Angelina Jolie—pop star Elton John has decided he wants to join the ranks of A-list celebrities with adopted children.

But it's not clear if John, 62, will be able to adopt, and the Rocket Man star has not yet started formal proceedings, which are often long and complicated.

John and longtime partner David Furnish are interested in trying to adopt a Ukrainian toddler named Lev they met during an orphanage tour there.

The singer told reporters in Ukraine on Saturday that Furnish has long wanted to adopt a child but that he was reluctant until he met Lev at an orphanage where many of the children's parents have died from AIDS.

"David always wanted to adopt a child and I always said 'no' because I am 62 and I think because of the traveling I do and the life I have, maybe it wouldn't be fair for the child," John said.

"But having seen Lev today, I would love to adopt him. I don't know how we do that but he has stolen my heart. And he has stolen David's heart and it would be wonderful if we can have a home. I've changed my mind today."

AP

Pop singer Elton John kisses baby Lev during a news conference at a orphanage for HIV-positive children in the town of Makeyevka outside Donetsk, September 12, 2009.

He acknowledged bureaucratic hurdles may make adoption of a Ukrainian child impossible, citing the lack of a formal adoption protocol between England and the Ukraine as a serious potential problem.

"I don't know what the procedure is to adopt a boy from the Ukraine. I don't think I can because England doesn't have a treaty with the Ukraine," he said.

But he said the fact that Furnish, 46, is Canadian may provide an avenue for adoption from the Ukraine. Some countries also make it difficult for gay couples to adopt.

John and Furnish toured the orphanage—where John performed for the children—as part of his AIDS Foundation work. Ukraine has one of the fastest rising rates of HIV infection in Europe.

John said he was motivated in part by the sudden death last week of one of his closest friends, keyboardist Guy Babylon.

"It broke my heart because he was such a genius and so young and has two wonderful children," John said. "What better opportunity to replace someone I lost than to replace him with someone I can give a future to."

Emmy-nominated 'Naked City' actor Paul Burke dies

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. (AP)—Paul Burke, who was twice nominated for an Emmy for his role as Det. Adam Flint in the gritty crime hit "Naked City," died Sunday. He was 83.

Burke, who had leukemia and non-Hodgkins lymphoma, died with wife Lyn at his side at his home in Palm Springs, family spokeswoman Daniela Ryan said.

Burke was featured in dozens of TV series in his four-decade career, including prominent parts on "12 O'Clock High" and "Dynasty."

In a pair of notable big screen appearances in the late 1960s he played a cop who chased upscale art thief Steve McQueen "The Thomas Crown Affair" and had the leading male role in the tale of young women and Hollywood excess "Valley of the Dolls."

Burke was born in New Orleans in 1926. His father was a boxer, Martin Burke, who had once fought heavyweight champion Gene Tunney.

The family ran a restaurant and nightclub in the city's French Quarter during World War II called Marty Burke's, where Paul Burke spent much of his time before leaving for Southern California to pursue an acting career at 19.

Is there trouble in Oprah's TV kingdom?

NEW YORK (AP)—Oprah Winfrey is opening her talk show's 24th season with a flourish. One week of programs include a Chicago block party with the Black Eyed Peas, an exclusive Whitney Houston interview, her first Dr. Phil visit in seven years and a trip to New York.

It's hard to remember when it seemed more important.

Winfrey is still the queen of daytime television, but the aura of invincibility is gone. The average viewership for "The Oprah Winfrey Show" slipped under 7 million last season, down 7 percent from the year before, according to Nielsen Media Research. One week during the July rerun season, the show had its lowest ratings since its 1985 debut.

There are many possible explanations for the fade, including some over which Winfrey has no control. Ratings declines are common with so many choices and demands on time, particularly during the day. It's even rarer for programs that have been on the air as long as Winfrey's to grow.

And it's not just her. "Live with Regis and Kelly" had the same 7 percent decline last season. Shows with Jerry Springer, Maury Povich and Martha Stewart all had double-digit declines.

Yet Winfrey has also alienated some of her audience, particularly in more conservative parts of the country, said Janice Peck, author of the book "Age of Oprah" and a University of Colorado professor.

By endorsing Barack Obama and campaigning for him, she shucked her apolitical image. Winfrey's book club selection of Eckhart Tolle's New Age religion book "A New Earth" angered some conservative Christians—even though Winfrey's producer said Winfrey was careful not to push Tolle's views on viewers through the television show.

Winfrey

Winfrey's buoyant encouragement of her audience, telling them that their possibilities are limitless, may no longer resonate in tough economic times, Peck said.

The professor said few of her college students talk about Winfrey. They seem more interested in Ellen DeGeneres or Tyra Banks. As the just-named fourth judge for "American Idol," DeGeneres is in line for a burst of attention this year.

"They see Oprah as kind of like who their mom likes," she said. "This is not a good sign for her."

Sheri Salata, executive producer, acknowledges "The Oprah Winfrey Show" is trying to deal with the delicate issue of attracting young viewers while not alienating longtime fans. Notice how the block party carefully followed a performance by the Black Eyed Peas with one by James Taylor.

It was the first time the show actively used social networks, drawing a crowd of 21,000 people in part through alerts on Twitter and Facebook, she said.

Winfrey has aggressively promoted her interview with Houston, telling Mario Lopez during an appearance on "Extra" that it was the best one she has ever done.

Whoa. Mario Lopez?

"You can't be oblivious to the decline in ratings," he said. "Even if it is the dominant show, you have to look at what the value is. I am sure that the people around her are aware of the trends or the perception of trends."

Salata said the show is trying hard to make an impact with the season opening, although it does that every year.

"When you've been on the air for 24 years, our greatest challenge as producers is what are we going to do now that hasn't been done before? How do we take it up a notch?" she said.

NYT: Jim Carroll, poet and punk rocker, dead at 60

NEW YORK (AP)—Jim Carroll, the poet and punk rocker who wrote "The Basketball Diaries," died Friday. He was 60.

He died from a heart attack at his home in Manhattan Friday, his ex-wife Rosemary Carroll told the New York Times.

Carroll was a fixture of the 1970s downtown Manhattan scene, where he mixed with artists such as Patti Smith and Robert Mapplethorpe. His life was shaped by drug use, which he wrote about extensively.

Published in 1978, "The Basketball Diaries" is a memoir of Carroll's youth in New York City. It was made into a movie in 1995 starring Leonardo DiCaprio.

Carroll also published several poetry collections. His 1980 album, "Catholic Boy," has been hailed as a landmark punk record.

Family cherishes patriarch who never learned to read

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: "J.J. in South Carolina" (July 12) is dating a man whom she suspects cannot read. My grandfather is illiterate, and he's the smartest man I know.

He and Grandma have successfully operated their own business for over 40 years. Papa can read and draw blueprints. He can also complete a mathematical equation before I can punch it into my calculator. He "invents" and builds all kinds of gadgets that make life easier for us.

Papa had only a second-grade education. As the oldest of 11 children, he worked in the fields to help support his family. My grandparents, married for 51 years, are the glue that holds our family together. Papa is intelligent, self-educated through years of hard work and life experience—as well as kind and generous.

I hope J.J. will give John a chance. At this point in his life, being able to read shouldn't be an issue. If J.J. can open her heart and let him in, it may be the best decision she ever made in her life.

PROUD GRANDDAUGHTER IN ALABAMA

DEAR PROUD GRANDDAUGHTER: Your grandfather is a fine example of someone who developed coping skills and succeeded despite his lack of formal education. You have every right to be proud. Read on:

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have a master's degree and a teaching credential. My husband could neither read nor write. He was always the one to fix things or called upon to help out. He could assemble anything without reading the instructions because he was smart and capable. He had many friends and never had a negative word to say about anyone. He was a wonderful husband, a devoted father, and no one ever considered him "illiterate."

J.J. should rethink her priorities, or let this man go so he can meet someone who will appreciate him for who he is.

R.B. IN ORANGE COUNTY, CALIF.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Illiteracy is a far larger problem in this country than most people realize. It keeps folks from enjoying life fully. Can you imagine not being able to read your child a bedtime story? What if you can't read street signs or write a check?

There are literacy councils in most communities that provide free, effective tutoring for adults who want to improve their reading and writing skills. Your local literacy council may be a solution if you want to raise the quality of life for someone you love.

CHANGING THE WORLD ONE WORD AT A TIME

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: The ability to read proficiently is not a sign of superior intelligence. I am impressed by the things my husband, daughter and many of my students CAN do. Reading may not be their strength, but they are gifted in many other ways. Reading can be beneficial, but knowing that someone loves them just the way they are is equally important.

AN EDUCATOR IN MERIDEN, KAN.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My mother met a man at a Parents Without Partners dance and fell in love. She has a Ph.D. in special education; he was an electrician. He was dyslexic, and no one knew how to teach him to read when he was young. He apprenticed under a master electrician to learn his trade.

Mom always thought she had to marry an intellectual equal, but after meeting my stepfather, she decided she'd rather be with someone sweet and kind who adored her. After they married, she found someone who specialized in teaching adults with dyslexia. One of my stepdad's proudest moments was the first time he didn't have to pretend he had left his reading glasses at home to order from a menu.

He and Mom were married for 15 years until his death. He had a kind heart, was devoted to Mom and they were very happy together.

LOVED MY STEPDAD

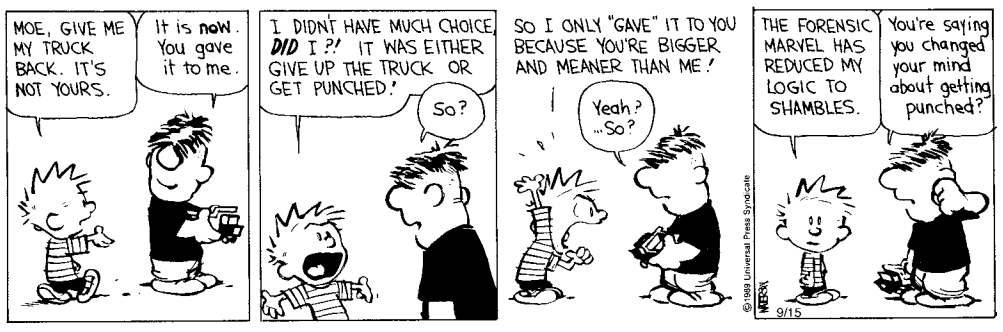
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


MOE, GIVE ME MY TRUCK BACK. IT'S NOT YOURS.
It is now. You gave it to me.
I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH CHOICE. DID I?! IT WAS EITHER GIVE UP THE TRUCK OR GET PUNCHED!
So?
SO I ONLY "GAVE" IT TO YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE BIGGER AND MEANER THAN ME!
Yeah? ..So?
THE FORENSIC MARVEL HAS REDUCED MY LOGIC TO SHAMBLES.
You're saying you changed your mind about getting punched?
© 1999 Universal Press Syndicate
9/15

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

YOUR BURGER'S NOT DONE YET
WHAT'S TAKING SO LONG?!
© 2009 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
www.garfield.com
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

I LIKED THE "TWILIGHT" BOOKS, TOO.
THOUGH MY FRIENDS AT SCHOOL MAKE FUN OF ME FOR IT.
THEY DON'T SOUND LIKE VERY GOOD FRIENDS.
THEY'RE ALL RIGHT. AND ONE OF THEIR MOMS WORKS AT A COSMETICS COUNTER.
SO?
SHE GETS ME 50% OFF EYELINER.
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www.gocomics.com

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

MR. CAMINO, I COULD OVERLOOK YOUR SHODDY SCHOOL RECORD AND POOR HYGIENE
BUT I WILL NOT TOLERATE JOB APPLICANTS LYING ON THEIR RESUMES!
OKAY! OKAY! I'LL SIT UP! GEESH! HAVE A COW WHY DON'T YA!!
Glenn McCoy 9-15
2of5 © Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

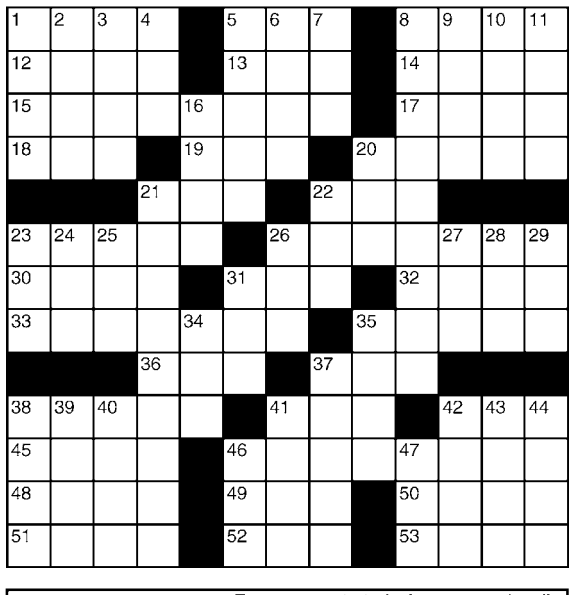
ACROSS
1 Sail support
5 Suitcase
8 Cooling devices
12 Reverberate
13 Lawyers' org.
14 Out of the storm
15 Time-saver
17 Ski-lift type
18 Nay opposite
19 Deteriorate
20 Muffler
21 Container for cookies
22 8-Across' shout
23 Pocatello's state
26 Frustrates
30 Ms. Moore
31 Egg — yung
32 Ark builder
33 Con
35 Act segment
36 April follower
37 Adversary
38 Curtain material
41 Hawaiian garland
42 TV watchdog org.
45 Press
46 Whopper
48 Foolish one
49 Lennon's lady
50 Microwave, e.g.
51 Lambs' mothers
52 Sawbuck
53 Warp crosser

DOWN
1 Arizona city
2 Sore
3 Oxford, for one
4 Rocky peak
5 Pancetta, e.g.
6 Touch
7 Gangster's gun
8 "Yeah, that'll happen!"
9 Actress Jessica
10 Approach
11 Helot
16 Small combo
20 Witnessed
21 One kind of Girl Scout cookies
22 Pi follower
23 Cards at the door
24 Morning moisture
25 Parisian pal
26 Place-kicker's pride
27 Canape topping
28 Hosiery shade
29 That woman
31 Aviate
34 River blocker
35 Earth
37 Criminal
38 Faction
39 Boast
40 Portrayal
41 Diane or Nathan
42 Most popular, briefly
43 Staff leader?
44 Minimal change
46 Young one
47 AAA job

Solution time: 21 mins.

P	A	L			O	F	F		H	A	S	H
E	R	I	C		F	L	U		O	V	U	M
A	M	M	O		T	A	R		T	E	E	M
S	Y	N	O	D		G	O	L	F			
			L	O	B		R	O	O	T	E	D
N	O	W	H	E	R	E		W	O	R	R	Y
A	G	R	A		A	R	C		T	O	N	E
B	R	E	N	T		A	R	B	I	T	E	R
S	E	N	D	U	P		Y	O	N			
			L	E	S	T		O	G	L	E	R
T	H	O	U		A	R	E		I	O	T	A
O	I	N	K		L	U	G		T	U	C	K
E	P	E	E		M	E	G			T	H	E

Yesterday's answer 9-15



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Prince Harry, 25; Dave Annable, 30; Tommy Lee Jones, 63; Oliver Stone, 63

Happy Birthday: Allow yourself the time you need to make decisions. Depression caused by poor choices could send you in the wrong direction. Taking control will set the stage for bigger and better times ahead. You can set a new standard that will lead to greater respect and a life that suits your own needs. Your numbers are 7, 12, 22, 29, 31, 40, 42

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You may be able to take advantage of an interesting situation that arises because you are in the right place at the right time. Being prepared to act fast will turn you into a hero. Follow your own path. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You may know what you are doing or what's expected of you but someone else will have a different plan and could cause you grief. Be perfectly honest about what you will and won't do. Be well-prepared and professional. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): By opening up your house to friends and family, you will create a special rapport with people who will offer you something in return. Expect someone who is jealous to criticize or try to put a halt to your plans. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You may be forced to give in to some alterations being made. Before you get upset about what's going on, consider the outcome and you will realize you can benefit in the end. Compromise rather than complaining. Greater security is heading your way. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You may like to call the shots but, before you do, make sure that your motives are in the right place. Emotional issues are likely to cloud your vision. Think about what you are going to say and how you want things to turn out. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't let someone else's uncertainty bog you down. You have to move forward if you want to get things done in a timely fashion. Forming an alliance with someone you feel is doing a good job could lead to future projects. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Dreams can come true if you put in time and effort. Don't be afraid to put your ideas on the table. A partnership will give your plans a boost. Mix a little fun into your day. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't get distracted by someone who is possessive, jealous or trying to make your life difficult. Concentrate on the here and now and what needs to be done. Before making an assumption, check the facts. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You'll have to act fast and efficiently to avoid critical comments and alterations to your plans. Being covered by someone financially may be nice but it will come with a price tag. Love will be flawless if you play by the rules. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't question what you are doing when it's someone else you should be watching. A sudden financial change can go either way, depending on how conscientious you are about your money and who has access to it. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You'll be drawn to someone unusual, interesting and available. Open up discussions about your talents as well as your preferences. Money is likely to come your way because of the information you share. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't count on others doing things the way you want them to be done. Fine-tune every detail, reflecting your ability to do a good job. Don't mix business and pleasure—you'll be taken advantage of. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are charming and know how to get others to do things for you. You are adaptable and creative and do things in a big way.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

5		2						
	3			7	8	5		
7			2			1	9	
		1			4		2	
	4			3			7	
	6		8			3		
	9	4			2			8
		5	3	8			1	
						6		9

Difficulty Level ★★ 9/15

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	3	6	9	4	1	2	8	7
8	1	2	3	6	7	9	4	5
4	7	9	5	2	8	1	6	3
3	8	4	7	1	5	6	9	2
7	2	5	6	8	9	4	3	1
9	6	1	4	3	2	7	5	8
6	5	7	2	9	3	8	1	4
2	4	8	1	5	6	3	7	9
1	9	3	8	7	4	5	2	6

Difficulty Level ★ 9/14

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MALLARD FILLMORE **Solution: 8 letters**

S	K	C	O	(K)	R	D	F	W	Y	R	O	T	S	C
P	S	N	(O)	S	C	Q	N	R	U	S	H	U	I	A
A	E	(O)	A	M	H	U	R	E	E	C	K	H	S	R
Y	(B)	T	B	T	I	A	D	W	I	N	P	E	S	T
H	G	G	S	H	L	C	B	R	I	R	I	I	U	O
T	S	N	F	I	L	E	E	O	O	S	F	D	E	O
R	W	I	I	N	I	P	T	M	Y	N	E	D	S	N
O	E	H	S	K	A	H	O	N	G	N	E	E	R	G
W	I	S	H	P	G	P	D	L	E	T	N	A	H	C
E	V	A	S	U	O	I	P	I	N	K	F	O	R	D
S	R	W	O	R	C	A	M	I	B	R	U	C	E	I
O	E	H	H	A	R	E	R	E	V	A	D	H	E	L
N	T	T	T	O	D	P	E	N	C	I	L	E	N	T
T	N	E	D	I	S	E	R	P	Q	U	A	T	E	O
A	I	Y	A	M	P	H	I	B	I	O	U	S	V	N

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Amphibious, Anthropomorphic, Book, Boss, Bruce, Cartoon, Chantel, Chet, Comic, Dave, Dilton, Diner, Duck, Eddie, File, Fish, Friend, Green, Interviews, Issues, King, Larry, Media, Newspaper, Noseworthy, OSHA Boy, Parody, Pencil, Pets, Pinkford, President, Printed, Quat, Rush, Story, Syndicate, Tank, Think, Thought, Veneer, Washington, WFDR, Wise

Yesterday's Answer: Orchestra

WONDERWORD offers the "Book of Celebrities," for $5.95 each (US funds only) payable to Universal Press Syndicate plus $3 postage for the first book order, $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to **WONDERWORD**, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

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WHATZIT Solution:
Silly season

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter Of The Petition To Appoint General Guardianship For:	FCD GU Civil Action No. 09-0473
DA-YEONG KIM, Minor Child,	NOTICE OF HEARING
By:	
JAMES BK JUN, Petitioner.	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on October 12, 2009, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205, before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 17th day of August, 2009.

/s/ Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter Of The Petition To Appoint General Guardianship For:	FCD GU Civil Action No. 09-0474
SENG-GYEOM KIM, Minor Child,	NOTICE OF HEARING
By:	
KI BOK HAM, Petitioner.	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on October 12, 2009, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205, before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 17th day of August, 2009.

/s/ Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

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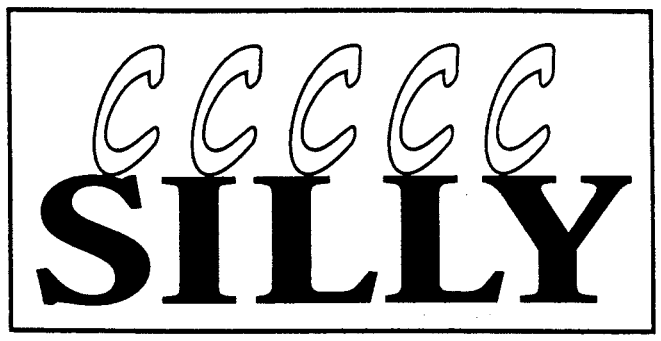
WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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Find today's solution in this section

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities (Council) is soliciting applications for the position of Executive Director. The Council is a private, non-profit corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. Its mission is to foster awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the humanities through support of educational programs that relate the humanities to the indigenous cultures and to the intellectual needs and interests of the people of the Commonwealth. The Council is governed by a 13-member Board of Directors that represents a broad cross section of the community.

The Executive Director is responsible for developing, implementing and evaluating a wide variety of humanities programming in consultation with the Council's board of directors. Other major duties include supervising a two person staff, administering an annual budget of approximately $300,000 and coordinating with a wide variety of public and private organizations and the general public to realize the Council's goals and objectives. A detailed description of the Executive Director's duties is available at the Council's office in Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai.

Applicants for this position must possess strong leadership, administrative, writing, computer and inter-personal skills, be able to work effectively in a multicultural environment, be able to prepare and review grant applications and annual budgets, and be knowledgeable about the history and cultures of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Micronesian region. Although a Master degree is preferred, applicants must possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited post-secondary institution and have experience administering federal programs. The starting salary ranges from $42,000 to $45,000 depending on qualifications and experience. The Executive Director serves at the pleasure of the Board of Directors.

Applicants are invited to submit their letter of intent, resume, and the names (with current contact information) of at least three references to Charles P. Reyes Jr., Acting Chair, Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities, P.O. Box 506437, Saipan, MP 96950 (no faxes or e-mails, please). The application package may also be dropped at the Council's office. Complete application packages must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on October 9, 2009 to be considered. The Council may chose to interview applicants before making a final selection. The Council is an equal opportunity employer.

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Brees sharp, extends Lions' losing streak

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Drew Brees tied a Saints record with six touchdown passes and threw for 358 yards in a 45-27 victory over New Orleans on Sunday that extended the Detroit Lions' regular-season losing streak to 18.

Two of Brees' touchdown passes went to Jeremy Shockey, who hadn't scored since being traded from the New York Giants to New Orleans last season.

Brees connected with Marques Colston for 9 yards, Robert Meachem for 39, Shockey for 1 and 15, Devery Henderson for 58 and Heath Evans for 13.

Matthew Stafford's first start had its ups and downs. The 2009 top overall draft choice was 16 of 37 for 205 yards with three interceptions.

Vikings 34, Browns 20

At Cleveland, Brett Favre threw a 6-yard touchdown pass to rookie Percy Harvin in his debut with the Vikings, and Adrian Peterson scored three touchdowns.

Making his 270th consecutive start after a will-he-or-won't-he flirtation that dominated NFL headlines this summer, the 39-year-old Favre showed he can still fire the football with authority—and hasn't lost his boyish love for the game.

After hooking up with Harvin, Favre sprinted into the end zone and tackled the young wide receiver.

Favre was 14 of 21 for 110 yards and appeared to be fully recovered from offseason surgery to repair a torn biceps tendon.

Broncos 12, Bengals 7

At Cincinnati, Brandon Stokley caught a tipped pass and outran Cincinnati's shocked defenders for an 87-yard touchdown with 11 seconds left.

After Cedric Benson's 1-yard run put Cincinnati ahead 7-6 with 38 seconds left, Kyle Orton—in line to shoulder the blame for a Denver loss—threw a desperate pass into a crowd at the sideline, hoping Brandon Marshall would somehow come down with it.

Giants 23, Redskins 17

At East Rutherford, New Jersey, Eli Manning threw a 30-yard touchdown pass to Mario Manningham, and defensive end Osi Umenyiora ran back a fumble 37 yards in his return from a knee injury.

Lawrence Tynes added three field goals, including a 45-yarder in the fourth quarter set up by an offside penalty by Redskins $100 million defensive tackle Albert Haynesworth, who had an average game in his Washington debut.

Washington, which trailed all game, drew within 23-17 with 1:30 to play on a 17-yard touchdown pass from Jason Campbell to Chris Cooley. Steve Smith recovered the onside kick and New York ran out the clock.

49ers 20, Cardinals 16

At Glendale, Arizona, Shaun Hill and the rest of San Francisco's offense had an awful second half, except for one magnificent possession.

Hill directed a 15-play, 80-yard drive for the winning touchdown on a 3-yard pass to Frank Gore, and the 49ers spoiled the season debut of defending NFC champion Arizona.

Seahawks 28, Rams 0

At Seattle, Matt Hasselbeck, playing his first game since Thanksgiving Day, overcame two interceptions in his first three throws to connect with John Carlson for two touchdowns.

AP

New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees hands the ball to running back Mike Bell, right, during the first half of an NFL football game in New Orleans, Sunday, Sept. 13, 2009.

The Rams, under new coach Steve Spagnuolo, gained just 247 yards in a flop that looked alarmingly like their 38-3 loss against Philadelphia that opened last season. The Rams were also doomed by 10 penalties—two personal fouls after plays by volatile offensive lineman Richie Incognito.

Eagles 38, Panthers 10

At Charlotte, North Carolina, Donovan McNabb limped to the locker room with a cracked rib, but it was a dominant performance by the Eagles thanks to Jake Delhomme's five turnovers.

Victor Abiamiri picked up Delhomme's fumble, caused by Trent Cole's sack, and plunged 2 yards for the go-ahead touchdown on the first play of the second quarter. Moments later, DeSean Jackson returned a punt 85 yards for a touchdown, the second longest in franchise history.

With the suspended Michael Vick watching from a luxury suite, Kevin Kolb finished the game at quarterback.

Jets 24, Texans 7

At Houston, Mark Sanchez, the fifth overall pick in this year's draft, threw for 272 yards and a touchdown in his NFL debut and Thomas Jones scored twice as the Jets shut down Houston's high-powered offense.

Houston's offense got past midfield just once in the first three quarters. The Texans were outgained 462-183, Steve Slaton was held to 17 yards rushing and Andre Johnson had 35 yards receiving.

Ravens 38, Chiefs 24

At Baltimore, Joe Flacco went 26 for 43 for 307 yards and three touchdowns, all career highs as the Ravens ruined the head coaching debut of Kansas City's Todd Haley.

Baltimore amassed a franchise-record 501 yards, yet needed a 31-yard touchdown catch by Mark Clayton with 2:06 left to break a tie.

Cowboys 34, Buccaneers 21

At Tampa, Florida, Tony Romo threw for 353 yards and three long touchdowns, spoiling the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' debut under coach Raheem Morris.

Miles Austin avoided two tacklers on the sideline to score on a 42-yard reception just before halftime. Roy Williams streaked through a mistake-prone secondary on a 66-yard TD play early in the third quarter.

Falcons 19, Dolphins 7

At Atlanta, Tony Gonzalez hauled in a touchdown pass and became the 21st player in NFL history with 11,000 yards receiving. Linebacker Mike Peterson forced a fumble with a vicious hit and picked off a pass for the Falcons.

The Falcons' defense, highly suspect after letting go five starters and looking shaky during the preseason, came up with four turnovers and thoroughly shut down a team that won the AFC East after going 1-15 two years ago.

Colts 14, Jaguars 12

At Indianapolis, Peyton Manning threw for one touchdown, Joseph Addai ran for another and the Colts' defense stopped Jacksonville twice in the fourth quarter.

Though Manning tied John Unitas' franchise record for career wins with 118, it was hardly a thing of beauty. Manning lost receiver Anthony Gonzalez late in the first quarter with a right knee injury, a potentially serious blow to the Colts usually high-scoring offense.

Packers 21, Bears 15

At Green Bay, Wisconsin, Aaron Rodgers brought the Packers back late in the fourth quarter, heaving a 50-yard touchdown pass to Greg Jennings with 1:11 remaining to give Green Bay a victory over Chicago.

Facing third-and-1 at the 50-yard line, Rodgers faked play action and heaved a rainbow of a throw deep to Jennings, who ran in for the go-ahead score.

Best shot of his life moves Federer to final

NEW YORK (AP)—And for his next act ...

Roger Federer punctuated his latest U.S. Open victory Sunday with a shot he called, quite simply, the greatest of his life: a between-the-legs, back-to-the-net, cross-court winner from the baseline.

A point later, with the crowd in hysterics and opponent Novak Djokovic still in shock, the world's top-ranked player closed out the victory, 7-6 (3), 7-5, 7-5, to move one win from his sixth straight U.S. Open title.

OK, who's got next?

Juan Martin del Potro is the lucky guy whose first career Grand Slam final will come Monday against Federer, who made his 17th in the last 18. Earlier in the day, No. 6 Del Potro beat No. 3 Rafael Nadal, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2.

■ ■ ■

NEW YORK (AP)—Serena Williams' profanity-laced, finger-pointing tirade at a U.S. Open linesperson drew a $10,000 fine Sunday, and more punishment could follow from a broader investigation into what the head of the tournament called her "threatening manner."

The fine—not quite 3 percent of the $350,000 in prize money Williams earned by reaching the semifinals—is the maximum on-site penalty that can be issued for unsportsmanlike conduct at a Grand Slam tournament.

"The average individual would look at that and say, 'A $10,000 fine for what she did? What are you guys, crazy?' The answer is: the process isn't over," tournament director Jim Curley said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Bill Babcock, the top administrator for Grand Slam tournaments, will review what happened Saturday night, when Williams yelled at a linesperson who called a foot fault with the defending champion two points away from losing to Kim Clijsters in the semifinals.

If Babcock determines Williams committed a "major offense," the rules allow for a fine as high as all of a player's prize money from the tournament—and a suspension, although Curley did not mention that as a possibility.

■ ■ ■

Fourth-seeded Djokovic fought for more than 2 1/2 hours on a day that grew increasingly windy at Arthur Ashe Stadium, hanging with Federer and even grabbing two break points late in the third set to briefly see a glimmer of hope.

Some things, though, there are no answers for, and the winner Federer hit to set up match point was Exhibit A. It's the kind of shot every tennis player has tried—oh, a thousand times or so. The best player in the world practices it, too.

"A lot, actually," he said. "But they never work. That's why, I guess, it was the greatest shot I ever hit in my life."

Ahead 6-5 and 30-0 in the third set, Federer sprinted to the net to return a Djokovic drop shot, then Djokovic finessed a lob over Federer's head that bounced barely inside the baseline.

Federer had nothing to lose, of course, so he ran back and hit the circus shot, a ball that lots of players, especially at the highest levels, can get back.

But few can do what Federer did with his—i.e., hit a blazing winner that barely clears the net. Federer jumped and shouted. Djokovic could only stand there and smile. He reached in his pocket to find the ball he'd serve to bring the match to a merciful end—for him, at least.

"You just say, `Well done,'" Djokovic said. "What can you do?"

This was exactly the kind of memory the U.S. Open needed after a weekend filled with rain delays and controversy.

It was, oddly enough, also two points before match point Saturday night when Serena Williams got called for a foot fault on her second serve, then unleashed a profanity-laced tirade at the line judge that cost her a point penalty, which ended the match.

On Sunday, while the Federer match was going on with Jack Nicholson, Paul Simon and Charlize Theron among the celebrities watching from the stands, the U.S. Open hit Williams with a $10,000 fine for that ugly scene.

Federer's shot—that was one-in-a-million.

"I don't want to mention the word luck, but I didn't have it today," Djokovic said. "That's why I'm a little bit disappointed."

Not that there wasn't plenty for him to get demoralized about before "The Shot."

Had that not occurred, the point that would have defined the match—and what it's like to play Federer—came at 5-all in the second set. Djokovic was a sitting duck at the net, yet somehow managed to get five straight reflex volleys back to Federer, who was standing at the service line, teeing off.

Djoko's final volley was a floater and he did what any smart guy would do: He stuck his racket between his legs, turned around and stuck out his rear—the tennis player's version of begging for mercy.

Tiger coasts to a runaway victory

LEMONT, Ill. (AP)—Tiger Woods' only way out was a 3-iron through a 20-foot wide corridor of fans and 30-foot high canopy of trees. For his next shot, he had to hook a 9-iron around another big tree and try to bounce it up a ramp onto the green.

After all that, he wound up with another birdie.

Walking off the ninth green with his lead still at seven shots, Woods shrugged his shoulders and smiled as if nothing could go wrong.

Hardly anything did at the BMW Championship.

All it took was one big week to end a month of frustration for the world's No. 1 player.

BMW Championship

One day after his course-record 62 gave him a seven-shot lead, Woods made sure no one else had a chance Sunday at Cog Hill, where he closed with a 3-under 68 for an eight-shot victory over Jim Furyk and Marc Leishman.

The victory was his sixth of the year and assured Woods of the No. 1 seed for the final tournament of the FedEx Cup.

It was his first victory since he blew a two-shot lead last month in the final round of the PGA Championship. His most recent chance at winning came at Liberty National two weeks ago, where he missed a 7-foot birdie putt on the last hole to get into a playoff.

"To play as well as I have of late and not get the Ws has been a little bit frustrating, no doubt, because I've been so close," he said. "It's just been a matter of making a couple of putts here and there, and I would have won the tournaments. And lo and behold, boom! I hit the ball just as well, just as consistent this week, and I made a few putts. And that's how it happens."

Woods finished at 19-under 265 to win for the fifth time at Cog Hill. It was his 10th career PGA Tour victory by at least eight shots.

Not that Cog Hill was devoid of drama.

"It felt like we had a tournament within a tournament," Furyk said after his 66. "Tiger was seven ahead. He was kind of running away. It was kind of a tournament for second place."

It turned out to be much more.

As Woods cruised around Cog Hill in his familiar red shirt, a dozen players behind him were scrambling to move high enough in the FedEx Cup standings for a shot at the $10 million prize at the Tour Championship, or simply to be part of the 30-man finale at East Lake.

Furyk's runner-up finish moved him up 15 spots to No. 3, meaning he can win the FedEx Cup with a victory at the Tour Championship.

Leishman, a rookie from Australia who closed with a 69, only advanced to the third round of playoffs at Cog Hill by making an eagle putt on his final hole last week at the TPC Boston. Now he's headed to the Tour Championship for an outside shot at $10 million, and is assured of making his first trip to the Masters.

"It was an awesome day for me," he said.

Most compelling, however, was the battle for the 30th and final spot.

The heartbreaker belonged to Brandt Snedeker, who needed only a bogey on the 18th hole to get into the Tour Championship. After missing a 12-footer for par, he watched in shock as his 3-foot bogey putt caught the left lip of the cup. Snedeker was so stunned that he missed the next two putts from tap-in range and took triple bogey.

AP

Tiger Woods holds the J.K. Wadley trophy after winning the BMW Championship golf tournament in Lemont, Ill., Sunday, Sept. 13, 2009.

"I can't believe I did this," Snedeker said. "I just made a mess of it."

That allowed John Senden to capture the 30th spot by less than a half-point over Ian Poulter, and both tried to throw it away.

Senden had 90 yards to the par-5 15th and chunked his wedge so badly that it traveled only 50 yards. Two holes later, he hit a bunker shot over the green and into the water to make double bogey. Because of Snedeker's blunder, however, Senden is going to East Lake.

He finished 0.46 points ahead of Poulter, who hit his approach into the water on the 18th hole.

Far easier to compute was Woods winning.

He finished at 19-under 265 for his 71st career victory, leaving two short of Jack Nicklaus for second on the PGA Tour's career list. Woods also tied Sam Snead with his sixth season of at least six victories.

"It's one of my best years," Woods said, alluding to his return from missing eight months with knee surgery.

Woods won for the first time since his aura was slightly tarnished at the PGA Championship, where he lost a lead in the final round for the first time since he was a 20-year-old rookie. Y.E. Yang rallied from two shots behind to beat him at Hazeltine, ending Woods' streak of never losing a major with at least a share of the lead.

No way he was about to lose this one—not at Cog Hill, and not the way he was hitting shots and making putts.

Cog Hill became the fourth course where Woods has won at least five times. He has won seven times at Torrey Pines and Firestone, and six times at Bay Hill.

Now comes the hard part.

Woods' sixth victory likely sewed up another PGA Tour player of the year award—no one else has won more than three times this year. And while he has a 1,504-point lead over Steve Stricker, the points are reset for the Tour Championship.

As the No. 1 seed, Woods will have 2,500 points, with Stricker at 2,250. The rest of the top five are Furyk, Zach Johnson and Heath Slocum. All of them can win the FedEx Cup with a victory at East Lake. Everyone else will need some help.

Lester's arm, Pedroia's power give Red Sox sweep

BOSTON (AP)—Jon Lester allowed two hits in eight innings as the Boston Red Sox beat Tampa Bay 4-0 on Sunday for a doubleheader sweep, handing the American League champion Rays their 11th consecutive loss.

Tampa Bay's losing streak is the longest by a major league team this season.

In the opener, Dustin Pedroia's tie-breaking, two-run homer in the eighth inning sent Boston to a 3-1 victory behind Clay Buchholz and two relievers.

Lester (13-7) followed Buchholz's strong outing with an even better one. Buchholz allowed one run and five hits in seven innings before Hideki Okajima (6-0) pitched a perfect eighth for the win.

Yankees 13, Orioles 3

At New York, Hideki Matsui homered and drove in five runs, CC Sabathia became the AL's first 17-game winner and the Yankees avoided a three-game sweep against last-place Baltimore.

Melky Cabrera finished with four RBIs for New York, which totaled 20 hits after getting 19 in the first two games of the series combined. Derek Jeter went 3 for 5 and scored three times to give him 101 runs on the season, reaching the century mark for the 12th time.

Angels 3, White Sox 2

At Anaheim, California, Torii Hunter hit a tiebreaking home run leading off the seventh inning against Mark Buehrle, and Los Angeles beat Chicago.

The AL West leaders took two of three from the White Sox, who dropped into third place in the AL Central. They are six games behind division-leading Detroit, and a half-game back of Minnesota.

Tigers 7, Blue Jays 2

At Detroit, Gerald Laird and Brandon Inge each had two RBIs, helping the Tigers snap a season-worst five-game skid.

Rick Porcello won a matchup with fellow rookie Ricky Romero. Porcello (13-8) gave up two runs on four hits in six innings to improve to 3-0 in his last four starts.

Royals 7, Indians 0

At Cleveland, Kyle Davies carried a no-hit bid into the sixth inning and won his fourth straight start, pitching Kansas City past the Indians.

Davies (8-9) held the Indians hitless until Shin-Soo Choo lined a single to center to open the sixth. The right-hander walked six and struck out three over six innings.

Twins 8, Athletics 0

At Minneapolis, Joe Mauer had three hits, including his 27th home run, and rookie Brian Duensing helped Minnesota avoid a sweep.

Put in the rotation Aug. 22, Duensing (3-1) scattered eight hits and three walks over seven innings to win his third straight decision. He struck out six.

Rangers 7, Mariners 2, 1st game
Mariners 5, Rangers 0, 2nd game

At Arlington, Texas, Ichiro Suzuki beat out an infield single to become the first player in major league history with at least 200 hits in nine straight seasons, Felix Hernandez (15-5) scattered four hits over seven shutout innings, and Seattle split a doubleheader.

In the opener, Tommy Hunter threw a six-hitter for his first complete game and the Rangers hit three homers.

Braves 9, Cardinals 2

At St. Louis, Javier Vazquez took a shutout into the ninth inning as the Atlanta Braves roughed up Chris Carpenter in a victory over the St. Louis Cardinals.

Vazquez allowed a leadoff single to Skip Schumaker and then retired the next 17 batters before Schumaker reached on an infield single in the sixth. It was the 25th complete game of Vazquez's career and his second of the season.

Giants 7, Dodgers 2

At San Francisco, Brad Penny kept his emotions in check and pitched seven strong innings to beat his former club, and Juan Uribe hit a two-run homer as San Fransico avoided a sweep by with a victory over the first-place Dodgers.

Los Angeles' lead in the NL West remained at three over Colorado after the Rockies lost again at San Diego. The Giants moved within 4Ω games of Colorado in the NL wild-card race.

Phillies 5, Mets 4, 1st game
Phillies 1, Mets 0, 2nd game

At Philadelphia, Kyle Kendrick (1-1) pitched into the eighth inning, and Shane Victorino and Ben Francisco each homered to lead Philadelphia over New York in the opener of a day-night doubleheader.

Ryan Madson Madson closed out Pedro Martinez's gem in the nightcap, after the former Mets ace outdueled Tim Redding (2-6) with six hits in eight scoreless innings.

Padres 7, Rockies 3

At San Diego, Tony Gwynn drove in the go-ahead run with a sacrifice fly in a three-run sixth inning, lifting San Diego to a win over Jason Marquis and Colorado.

Marquis (15-11) carried a 3-2 lead into the sixth when San Diego rallied. Marquis walked four batters in the inning, including one with the bases loaded.

Pirates 2, Astros 1

At Houston, Paul Maholm pitched eight shutout innings as Pittsburgh beat Houston to snap a 13-game road losing streak.

Ryan Doumit homered and Garrett Jones had an RBI single for the last-place Pirates, who had dropped five in a row overall.

Cubs 5, Reds 2

At Chicago, Ted Lilly pitched six scoreless innings and Derrek Lee homered and singled twice, helping Chicago beat Cincinnati.

Andres Blanco had three hits and two RBIs for the Cubs, who won the season series 10-5.

Nationals 7, Marlins 2, 8 1/2 innings

At Miami, John Lannan won for the first time in seven starts and Pete Orr hit his first home run of the season as Washington downed Florida.

The game was called after a 53-minute delay in the bottom of the ninth inning. The Marlins had a runner on base with nobody out. Rain also halted play for 2 hours, 10 minutes in the sixth.

Brewers 5, Diamondbacks 3

At Phoenix, Prince Fielder homered to tie Milwaukee's single-season RBI record, Alcides Escobar had a two-run single in a four-run seventh inning as Milwaukee completed a three-game sweep of Arizona.

Fielder's fourth-inning home run, his 39th of the season, gave him a major league-leading 126 RBIs and tied him with Cecil Cooper for the Brewers' franchise record. Cooper, Houston Astros' manager, set the mark in 1983.

CLIJSTERS

From Page 28

Clijsters said. "Because it wasn't in the plan. I wanted to come back here, get a feel for it, play a Grand Slam so I wouldn't have to come back next year and learn the new experiences all over."

Talk about your quick transitions.

It was all quite a different scene from the night before, when Clijsters' semifinal win over Serena Williams was closed out on a foot fault, an outburst and a point penalty, and the 26-year-old Belgian stood behind the baseline, looking bewildered as Williams ran over to shake her hand.

Williams' tirade may have been the talk of the U.S. Open. But Clijsters was the winner.

This was her second U.S. Open title, the other coming in 2005—her last appearance at Flushing Meadows and before a spate of nagging injuries eventually drove her out of the sport and led her to start a family. These days, she has her baby's name tattooed on her left wrist, near the scar from an operation she needed back in her first career.

When she came back, she was "starting from zero," she said. The work to get back in shape was not pretty.

"No swear words like Serena yesterday, but a lot of swearing at home," Clijsters said.

Some might have called this the mother of all upsets, but by the time she reached the final, against the resilient-but-still-learning 19-year-old from Denmark, it was hard to view it that way.

Clijsters beat both Williams sisters and two players seeded in the teens. She matched Venus and Serena power shot for power shot and showed she could play Wozniacki's patient game—and play it better.

"She's playing because she thinks it's fun and because she likes it," said Wozniacki, who is too young to have played Clijsters during her first career. "I really think she might be a better player now than she was before."

This one was nothing like the Williams match—before it turned sour—which was filled with short, hard-hitting rallies in which Clijsters moved one of tennis' best players at will and made her hit shots from places she normally doesn't.

Instead, it was a waiting game, and when Clijsters fell behind 4-2 in the first set, she showed she was willing to play it.

A 29-shot rally here, a 25-shot rally there. Drop shots and lobs. Clijsters did that. Went for more, too, and finished with two more winners than unforced errors (36-34)—a good ratio on any day—and 26 more winners than Wozniacki.

"Against the Williams sisters, you feel if you hang in there, they might give you some easy points," Clijsters said. "She didn't do that. You had to be patient, but not play along with her game."

After getting back on serve, Clijsters held off two break points at 5-5, then broke Wozniacki for the fourth time to win the first set. The second set was easier and before they knew it, Jada was on the court posing for photographers.

Clijsters didn't even have a ranking coming into this tournament because she hadn't played enough tournaments to get on the list. She'll come in at around No. 20 when the new rankings are released this week, but probably won't try to improve on that right away.

"It's the greatest feeling in the world being a mother," she said. "I just can't wait to spend next the few weeks with her and have her routine schedule at home again."

Her victory, a few hours after watching "Ice Age" with Jada during some quality time, came over the first Danish player to reach a Grand Slam final. But Wozniacki's greater claim to fame is that she has won more matches on tour this year than anyone.

She played like a winner over two weeks in Flushing Meadows, including that 6-2, 6-2 victory that ended the magical run of 17-year-old Melanie Oudin, whose rapid rise was the story of the tournament for the first 10 days.

Oudin left, then the Williams imbroglio took over.

Clijsters made her headlines, too. The mother-on-a-comeback story was a winner all the way.

Beneath the surface of all these stories might also be a referendum on the state of women's tennis. If an unseeded mother who has been away from the game for two years can beat five top-20 players and win the U.S. Open, maybe the talent pool isn't so deep.

In fact, stories have circulated recently that another Belgian, former No. 1 Justine Henin, might be also been thinking about a comeback.

Could Evonne Goolagong Cawley be far behind? She was the last mother to win one of these Grand Slams, back in 1980 at Wimbledon.

Clijsters last major title isn't that sort of ancient history. It was only four years ago that she climbed into the stands and tightrope-walked across the railings to celebrate her first U.S. Open title.

Same scene this time but with a few new characters in the mix. There was her husband, American Brian Lynch, with whom she shared a long, sweet kiss. Then there was Jada, clapping her hands with that binky in her mouth.

"We tried to plan her nap time a little later today so she could be here," Clijsters said.

Looks like she's getting the hang of that motherhood thing, too.

NMI NEEDS

From Page 28

participated in the activities with one of them as young as seven years.

The CNMI actually won medals in the previous stagings of the Micronesian Games and Pacific Mini Games, albeit with alien workers leading the way.

Marianas Table Tennis Association president Steve Lim, for his part, thanked Houston for the visit and said his association is looking forward to conducting more clinics in the future.

"He's been doing a good job conducting demonstration in schools. His credentials make it easier for the children to learn the basics of the sport," Lim said.

Lim said it's always a positive for local players whenever a development officer comes to visit the islands.

"It's a challenge on our part because we have to sustain the interest of the children. We have a good turnout today but we need to have more young players join," he said.

Lim said MATTA hopes to improve the sport by initiating competitions in the school level.

Houston visited other Pacific areas like Fiji, New Caledonia, Palau, and Guam before coming to the CNMI.

He said new New Caledonia has the strongest players in the region with the exception of Australia and New Zealand.

Houston said to be at par with the other strong teams in Oceania, the CNMI must ensure the quality and quantity of training.

"Promotion and improving the level should go hand in hand," said Houston, who described the game of ping-pong as the "perfect sport."

"Because it is a sport for all. It doesn't matter how old you are, whatever gender you are, what religion you follow, it's for family and friends, plus it's good for your health," he said.

Houston said as the Oceania development officer, he should visit each jurisdiction at least once every two years.

RAPHAEL

From Page 28

Troy Verdaguer (566 and 141.5) and Marion McKenzie (525 and 131.25) completed the five-player cast of the youth tourney.

The win was worth $20 for Zapanta, while Cruz and Yarobwemal took home $15 and $10, respectively. Zapanta also won a Waioka gift basket from Micronesian Brokers, Inc.

While Zapanta was hailed Prince of the Lanes for September, Saipan Bowling Association will have to wait another week to crown its Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes winners.

This after SBA cancelled last night's final day because of the threat of tropical storm Choi-Wan.

Alex Castro and Emi Williams topped Day 1 of the competition Sunday with totals of 830 (207.5 pinfalls) and 703 (175.75) in the men's and women's divisions, respectively.

SBA secretary Ross Zapanta said they are hoping to restart the competition next Sunday, Sept. 20, at the same venue.

BANMI

From Page 28

for the top spot with Sparks and Runnin' Rebels with identical 3-0 win-loss marks, while Rollers 3 so far is winless in two assignments.

For more information, about the IT&E and Rotary basketball league, check the www.fibaoceania.com for update and the resumption of games or contact Venus at 483-4906.

Tropical storm Choi-Wan has maximum sustained winds near the center of 85 miles per hour. Its typhoons forced winds extend outward up to 30 miles from the center, while tropical force winds extend outward up to 180 miles from the center in the east semi-circle and 100 miles from the center in the west semi-circle.

Choi-Wan's force winds had also expanded from the center since earlier this morning. It has also been drifting west at 5 miles per hour and a gradual turn to the west north west and is expected to pass a little of north of Saipan this morning. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	92	52	.639	–
Boston	84	58	.592	7
Tampa Bay	72	71	.503	19 1/2
Toronto	65	78	.455	26 1/2
Baltimore	58	84	.408	33

Central Division

Detroit	76	66	.535	–
Minnesota	71	72	.497	5 1/2
Chicago	71	73	.493	6
Cleveland	61	81	.430	15
Kansas City	57	86	.399	19 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	86	56	.606	–
Texas	80	62	.563	6
Seattle	74	70	.514	13
Oakland	64	78	.451	22

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	82	60	.577	–
Florida	76	67	.531	6 1/2
Atlanta	75	68	.524	7 1/2
New York	63	81	.438	20
Washington	50	93	.350	32 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis	84	60	.583	–
Chicago	73	68	.518	9 1/2
Houston	70	73	.490	13 1/2
Milwaukee	69	73	.486	14
Cincinnati	64	79	.448	19 1/2
Pittsburgh	55	86	.390	27 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	85	59	.590	–
Colorado	82	62	.569	3
San Francisco	77	66	.538	7 1/2
San Diego	65	79	.451	20
Arizona	62	82	.431	23

Yesterday's Games

Philadelphia 5, N.Y. Mets 4, 1st game
Philadelphia 1, N.Y. Mets 0, 2nd game
Washington 7, Florida 2
Pittsburgh 2, Houston 1
Atlanta 9, St. Louis 2
Chicago Cubs 5, Cincinnati 2
San Diego 7, Colorado 3
San Francisco 7, L.A. Dodgers 2
Milwaukee 5, Arizona 3
Boston 3, Tampa Bay 1, 1st game
Boston 4, Tampa Bay 0, 2nd game
N.Y. Yankees 13, Baltimore 3
Kansas City 7, Cleveland 0
Detroit 7, Toronto 2
Texas 7, Seattle 2, 1st game
Seattle 5, Texas 0, 2nd game
Minnesota 8, Oakland 0
L.A. Angels 3, Chicago White Sox 2

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Jets	1	0	0	1.000	24	7
Buffalo	0	0	0	.000	0	0
New England	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Miami	0	1	0	.000	7	19

South

Indianapolis	1	0	0	1.000	14	12
Houston	0	1	0	.000	7	24
Jacksonville	0	1	0	.000	12	14
Tennessee	0	1	0	.000	10	13

North

Baltimore	1	0	0	1.000	38	24
Pittsburgh	1	0	0	1.000	13	10
Cincinnati	0	1	0	.000	7	12
Cleveland	0	1	0	.000	20	34

West

Denver	1	0	0	1.000	12	7
Oakland	0	0	0	.000	0	0
San Diego	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Kansas City	0	1	0	.000	24	38

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

N.Y. Giants	1	0	0	1.000	23	17
Dallas	1	0	0	1.000	34	21
Philadelphia	1	0	0	1.000	38	10
Washington	0	1	0	.000	17	23

South

New Orleans	1	0	0	1.000	45	27
Atlanta	1	0	0	1.000	19	7
Carolina	0	1	0	.000	10	38
Tampa Bay	0	1	0	.000	21	34

North

Green Bay	1	0	0	1.000	21	15
Minnesota	1	0	0	1.000	34	20
Chicago	0	1	0	.000	15	21
Detroit	0	1	0	.000	27	45

West

San Francisco	1	0	0	1.000	20	16
Seattle	1	0	0	1.000	28	0
Arizona	0	1	0	.000	16	20
St. Louis	0	1	0	.000	0	28

Thursday's Game

Pittsburgh 13, Tennessee 10, OT

Yesterday's Games

Atlanta 19, Miami 7
N.Y. Jets 24, Houston 7
New Orleans 45, Detroit 27
Denver 12, Cincinnati 7
Baltimore 38, Kansas City 24
Dallas 34, Tampa Bay 21
Minnesota 34, Cleveland 20
Philadelphia 38, Carolina 10
Indianapolis 14, Jacksonville 12
Seattle 28, St. Louis 0
N.Y. Giants 23, Washington 17
San Francisco 20, Arizona 16
Green Bay 21, Chicago 15

BMW CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

LEMONT, Illinois (AP) – Scores Sunday from the BMW Championship, a $7.5 million U.S. PGA Tour playoff event on 7,616-yard, par-71 Dubsdread Course at Cog Hill Golf and Country Club:

FINAL ROUND

Tiger Woods (2500), $1,350,000	68-67-62-68–265
Jim Furyk (1250), $660,000	70-70-67-66–273
Marc Leishman (1250), $660,000	67-69-68-69–273
Sean O'Hair (750), $360,000	70-68-70-66–274
Zach Johnson (550), $300,000	73-65-70-68–276
Sergio Garcia (475), $260,625	71-68-68-71–278
Padraig Harrington (475), $260,625	68-68-69-73–278
Camilo Villegas (413), $225,000	68-74-71-66–279
Kevin Na (413), $225,000	72-72-65-70–279
Bill Haas (327), $172,500	71-68-71-70–280
Mark Wilson (327), $172,500	69-66-71-74–280
Luke Donald (327), $172,500	70-69-68-73–280
Matt Kuchar (327), $172,500	71-68-66-75–280
Brandt Snedeker (327), $172,500	69-69-66-76–280
Stephen Ames (275), $127,500	76-67-69-69–281
Bo Van Pelt (275), $127,500	67-69-72-73–281
Bubba Watson (275), $127,500	69-68-70-74–281
Steve Marino (263), $108,750	66-77-68-71–282
Rory Sabbatini (263), $108,750	66-70-72-74–282
Mike Weir (250), $90,500	72-69-71-71–283
Ian Poulter (250), $90,500	69-71-68-75–283
John Senden (250), $90,500	70-70-66-77–283
Retief Goosen (228), $64,875	72-72-71-69–284
Chad Campbell (228), $64,875	70-70-72-72–284
Stewart Cink (228), $64,875	72-74-70-68–284
Anthony Kim (228), $64,875	69-69-72-74–284
Kevin Sutherland (228), $64,875	75-67-67-75–284
David Toms (228), $64,875	68-71-69-76–284
Robert Allenby (210), $53,250	75-74-67-69–285
Dustin Johnson (188), $43,594	69-73-71-73–286
Nick Watney (188), $43,594	70-71-73-72–286
Jason Dufner (188), $43,594	74-70-69-73–286
Fredrik Jacobson (188), $43,594	72-71-70-73–286
Charles Howell III (188), $43,594	69-72-70-75–286
Phil Mickelson (188), $43,594	71-69-70-76–286
Ryan Moore (188), $43,594	71-72-75-68–286
Tim Clark (188), $43,594	78-69-73-66–286
Hunter Mahan (150), $30,750	73-73-69-72–287
John Mallinger (150), $30,750	68-76-69-74–287
John Rollins (150), $30,750	73-65-74-75–287
Heath Slocum (150), $30,750	70-69-72-76–287
Charlie Wi (150), $30,750	71-73-72-71–287
Scott Verplank (150), $30,750	70-75-72-70–287
Ernie Els (150), $30,750	75-67-77-68–287
Brian Davis (123), $22,575	71-70-72-75–288
Kenny Perry (123), $22,575	77-69-70-72–288
Angel Cabrera (123), $22,575	73-75-69-71–288
Ben Crane (123), $22,575	75-69-76-68–288
Pat Perez (103), $18,713	72-71-73-73–289
Justin Leonard (103), $18,713	73-69-75-72–289
Davis Love III (103), $18,713	74-77-67-71–289
Jerry Kelly (103), $18,713	76-73-69-71–289
Steve Stricker (88), $17,550	72-73-68-77–290
Nathan Green (88), $17,550	73-74-73-70–290
Bryce Molder (73), $17,025	70-73-71-77–291
Geoff Ogilvy (73), $17,025	68-73-75-75–291
Brian Gay (73), $17,025	73-71-75-72–291
Woody Austin (73), $17,025	76-72-72-71–291
Jason Bohn (58), $16,575	71-74-74-73–292
Jason Day (58), $16,575	71-73-75-73–292
Jeff Overton (43), $16,125	72-68-75-78–293
Charley Hoffman (43), $16,125	73-71-72-77–293
Webb Simpson (43), $16,125	70-74-73-76–293
Jonathan Byrd (43), $16,125	69-79-73-72–293
Y.E. Yang (30), $15,750	71-78-73-75–297
Lucas Glover (25), $15,600	74-75-71-79–299
Paul Goydos (20), $15,450	74-72-73-81–300
J.B. Holmes (15), $15,300	78-73-72-81–304

FedExCup points in parentheses

BT THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Powerade Banzai Cliff Memorial Half Marathon and Fun Run

PHOTOS By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Louie Tenorio, right, and Mieko Carey are the first runners to arrive at the finish line of the Fun Run.

Organizer Brad Ruszala of IT&E gives instructions to the starters for the Half Marathon event of last Saturday's 4th Annual Powerade Banzai Cliff Memorial Half-Marathon and Fun Run.

Competitors of the Fun Run dash off from Banzai Cliff Memorial Park in Marpi.

Alex Racona came in third in the Fun Run.

Florian Braig checked in at No. 4 in the Fun Run.

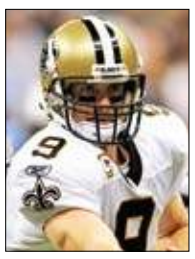
The Top 3 male and females winners in the Fun Run and Half Marathon pose with organizer Brad Ruszala.

Matt Mancao came in second in the 13.1-mile Half Marathon.

Ronald Villafria settled for third place in the Half Marathon.

Mieko Carey, left, and Mamiko Berger won the women's Fun Run and Half Marathon, respectively.

Back-to-back champion Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel reports to work at Safety 1st minutes after completing the race.



Brees sharp, extends Lions' losing streak

Drew Brees tied a Saints record with six touchdown passes and threw for 358 yards in a 45-27 victory over New Orleans on Sunday that extended the Detroit Lions' regular-season losing streak to 18. 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Tiger coasts to a runaway victory

Tiger Woods' only way out was a 3-iron through a 20-foot wide corridor of fans and 30-foot high canopy of trees. For his next shot, he had to hook a 9-iron around another big tree and try to bounce it up a ramp onto the green. 25

Clijsters wins US Open in return from retirement

By EDDIE PELLS
AP NATIONAL WRITER

Kim Clijsters cradled the baby in one arm, the trophy in the other.

The joy of motherhood. The joy of winning the U.S. Open.

Clijsters made history Sunday night, capping a comeback from two years out of tennis to become the first unseeded woman to win the Open—and the first mom to win a major since 1980—with a 7-5, 6-3 victory over No. 9 Caroline Wozniacki.

When it was over, Clijsters collapsed to the ground and started crying—tears of joy, probably mixed in with a little bit of shock, too. Her 18-month-old daughter, Jada, watched from a suite with a pacifier in her mouth, but later came down to the court to take part in the celebration.

Guess what mommy got for you, sweetie! A Grand Slam title.

"It still seems so surreal,"

See CLIJSTERS on Page 26

RELATED NEWS

Best shot of his life moves Federer to final.

PAGE 24

AP

Kim Clijsters, of Belgium, poses with her daughter Jada and the championship trophy after winning the women's championship over Caroline Wozniacki, of Denmark, at the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Sunday, Sept. 13, 2009.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

September Prince of the Lanes Raphael Zapanta is flanked by runners-up Zach Cruz, left, and Leeanne Yarobwemal after the competition Sunday at the Capital Bowling Center.

Raphael nears sweep, King and Queen tilt postponed

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Nine months down, three months to go.

Raphael Zapanta again was automatic Sunday, keeping his unbeaten streak with his ninth monthly youth bowling tournament win by topping the September Fiji Water Prince/Princess of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament.

The youngest son of veteran bowlers Ross and Gigi Zapanta, again blew away the competition at the Capital Bowling Center with a four-game average of 211 pinfalls.

He started the competition with a near perfect game of 297 in Game 1. He came crashing back to earth with a 170 in his second time up before rebounding nicely with a 203 in the third game.

Zapanta wrapped things up with a pedestrian 174 in the fourth game to finish with 844 pinfalls, which was 255 pinfalls ahead of eventual runner-up Zack Cruz.

Cruz totaled 589 pinfalls built around a four-game series of 136, 142, 189, and 122 for a 147.25 average. Leeanne Yarobwemal settled for third place with her 586 total and 146.5 average (160, 128, 155, and 143).

See RAPHAEL on Page 26

'NMI needs serious training for Micro Games'

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

It will take a while before the CNMI can again hit pay dirt in the table tennis competition of the Pacific Games.

This, according to Oceania Table Tennis Federation development officer Scott Houston, who said that the islands' home-grown ping-pong players are just not as skilled and experienced as other table tennis players in the region.

"There is potential here. They have a chance for a medal but they need more competitions," he said in an interview after conducting a beginners' clinic Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

"They need serious training to be able to achieve that goal—up to seven years [of training]," said Houston

Aside from Saturday's clinic at Ada Gym, which attracted 23 novice players, Houston also conducted similar clinics at Mt. Carmel School and Grace Christian Academy on Saipan as well as on Tinian.

He said players on Tinian have good skills but the CNMI has to conduct regular training on island.

Last weekend's clinics, however, is step on the right direction as a number of CNMI youth

See NMI NEEDS on Page 26

Oceania Table Tennis Federation development officer Scott Houston teaches one of the young kids the basic techniques of the sport during a clinic at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last Saturday.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

BANMI cancels games in Rotary, IT&E caging

Organizers of the Rotary Club of Saipan Youth Basketball League and the IT&E Inter-Government/Business Basketball League cancelled their games yesterday because of the threat of tropical storm Choi-Wan.

Basketball Association of Northern Marinas Islands president Elias Rangamar issued the suspension of the IT&E caging yesterday morning.

Commonwealth Ports Authority Accounting was supposed to play Department of Community and Cultural Affairs in the 7pm first game of the IT&E caging last night, while NTT Docomo was scheduled to tangle with Customs in the second game, set around 8:30pm.

CPA Accounting is still winless after five games, DCCA has a 2-3 win-loss record, while Docomo and Customs have 3-1 and 1-2 win-loss standings, respectively.

BANMI director Abner Venus, for his part, said matches in the Rotary caging will indefinitely be cancelled because of the bad weather.

"I just want to inform you that games scheduled for today will be cancelled due to the typhoon that is coming. I am not sure if games would resume tomorrow," he said in an e-mail.

The game scrapped in the 18-and-under caging last night was the match between league-leading Sonics and the struggling Young 670 Rollers 3.

Sonics is currently tied

See BANMI on Page 26